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50 YEARS OF HOCKEY

AN INTIMATE HISTORY
OF THE NATIONAL
HOCKEY LEAGUE

by Brian McFarlane

FULLY ILLUSTRATED

SPECIAL
INTRODUCTION
BY

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League

COMPLETELY UPDATED
RECORDS AND STATISTICS

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CONTENTS

Acknowledgements

Foreword

Chapter	Page
I The Birth of a Tradition	9
II The Expanding Hockey Frontier	19
III The Thriving Thirties	37
IV The War Years and After	59
V A Tale of Two Cities	90
VI The Money Years	117
Conclusion	148

FOREWORD

Ice hockey is the grandest team game of them all, a rousing spectacle of skill on skates; skating, shooting, stickhandling and the crunch of body contact.

Nowhere is hockey played better than in the National Hockey League. In recent years the National Hockey League has played to jammed arenas in six major North American cities. In 1967 the league added six more. According to *New York Times* columnist Arthur Daley, the N.H.L. is "the most productive money-maker in the entire history of athletics."

It is a matter of record that organized hockey bounced helter-skelter down a rocky road in its formative years. At birth, on a chilly November day in 1917, the National Hockey League was a puny thing, an unlikely prospect to thrive and prosper and mature into the sporting giant it is today.

Conceived during the fury of the first World War and product of a broken marriage between quarreling members of an earlier league, the N.H.L. soon caught the fancy of the fans, despite growing pains that produced rowdies, ringers and riots. Skulls were cracked and blood flowed with shocking regularity. Games were played in drafty, barn-like arenas, under poor lighting, and on ice that might be rock-hard or soft as putty, even deliberately salted to slow down a fast team.

The fans loved it. They bundled up and stood in sub-zero temperatures to curse and cheer alternately as two teams from rival cities clashed on the ice. Overcoat pockets often concealed rotten fruit and vegetables to be hurled at officials and opposing players when the home team was taking the worst of it. The post-game battles between rival factions in local bars were often far more spectacular than the donnybrooks on the ice.

Hockey, with its spills and speed, was a popular sport long before the formation of the National Hockey League. Pinpointing the origins of the game with any degree of accuracy is an impossibility.

Canadians have been playing hockey, or an earlier version of the game called "shinny," for well over a hundred years. It is recognized as a Canadian game although there is evidence that a form of hockey, certainly hockey on the field and probably hockey on ice, was played in several European countries centuries before Canadians adopted the game and shaped it and molded it and honed it to their own liking. Before the turn of the century, the Canadian brand of hockey had spread into the United States. Baltimore and New York were the first cities to make use of artificial ice for hockey games in the 1890's, an artificial ice surface having been perfected by a man named Kirk in 1842.

William Legget, writing in *Sports Illustrated*, describes the violent skills of ice hockey this way: "Hockey is fast, hockey is harsh, hockey is cruel and comical; a game of sticks and stitches, bruises and pratfalls. The best hockey in the world is played in the N.H.L. because the best skaters, the sharpest shooters, the quickest goalies, the toughest professionals that can be found, man the rosters."

Fifty years of N.H.L. hockey have produced scores of memorable team and individual accomplishments. Thousands of words could be written about a Howie Morenz, a Gordie Howe or a Bobby Hull. This book's intent is to capture the changing face of the game in chronological fashion, touching, but not dwelling, on the deeds of hockey men who played a part, large or small, in bringing the N.H.L. to the lofty pinnacle it holds today in the realm of sport.

CHAPTER I

THE BIRTH OF A TRADITION

The Stanley Cup to 1917

The ultimate goal in professional ice hockey, the game's most prized award, is the Stanley Cup. Lord Stanley of Preston, the sixth Governor-General of Canada and a keen hockey fan, purchased the cup that bears his name for ten pounds or slightly less than fifty dollars.

The year was 1893, the year of Lord Stanley's retirement. The trophy was to be held by the champion hockey club in Canada and Lord Stanley directed that the first holders should be the Montreal Amateur Athletic Association team, winners of the Amateur Hockey Association title that season. The Stanley Cup is one of the oldest and most treasured trophies in sport. It came into being long before the Temple Cup, now long forgotten, but a trophy once awarded to the winners of baseball's World Series. It is seven years older than the Davis Cup, symbolic of preeminence in the world of tennis.

Originally, as set out in the terms of the donation, the Stanley Cup was to be a challenge trophy for which any team in any league was to be permitted to compete (subject to the discretion of the Cup trustees). Since 1910, when the National Hockey Association took control of the trophy, it has symbolized professional hockey supremacy, and since 1926, competition for the coveted trophy has been limited to teams in the National Hockey League.

Over the years champions of no less than 17 different leagues have challenged for it. Sometimes one challenge followed hard on the heels of another, and the successful contender in one playoff series could be called upon to defend the title again as soon as that series was over. Stanley Cup games have been played in December, January, February, and March of the same season. Some series have been sudden death affairs, others two-game, total-goals-to-count and still others best of three, of five and, as now, best of seven. The challengers have been college boys, pure amateurs, professionals and sometimes a mixture of them all.

Lord Stanley, who began it all, never saw a Stanley Cup game.

Having appointed two Cup trustees, Ottawa sportsmen Sheriff Sweetland and P. D. Ross, he returned to England when his term of office had expired in May of 1893 some ten months before the first playoff took place. As directed by Lord Stanley, his cup had been awarded for the first time to the Hockey Club of the Montreal Amateur Athletic Association which had won the Amateur Hockey Association Championship in the year 1893. It was on March 22, 1894 that the first Stanley Cup match was played between the Montreal A.A.A.'s and the Ottawa Capitals.

A crowd of 5,000 spectators stood, some on a platform about 12 inches high surrounding the natural-ice surface of the rink, and some in balconies above. There were seven players on each team: goal, point, cover-point, rover and three forwards. (Point and cover-point are comparable to present-day defensemen except that one played in front of the other.) Lightly padded and without gloves, the players had to score into goals which were merely upright posts imbedded in the ice. There was no crossbar, no goal line from post to post and no net behind to stop the puck. The referee's uniform consisted of street clothes including a derby hat.

A newspaper account of the game read in part:

Montreal—March 22, 1894—The hockey championship was decided here tonight, and never before in the history of the game was there such a crowd present at a match or such enthusiasm evinced. There were fully 5,000 persons at the match, and tin horns, strong lungs and a general rabble predominated. The ice was fairly good. The referee forgot to see many things. The match resulted in favor of Montreal by 3 goals to 1.

Referees had their critics in the early days just as they have now. After a game in Quebec in 1895 in which Ottawa defeated Quebec 3-2, two officials were seized by angry fans and dragged back into the rink with the aim of forcing them to declare the game a draw. The police had to be called in to rescue the shaken officials. A special meeting of the League executive was called and the Quebec team was suspended for the balance of the season.

In 1899 a referee named J. A. Findlay caused an uproar in a cup game between the Montreal and Winnipeg Victorias. A Montreal player, Bob McDougall, hit Winnipegger Tony Gingras across the back of the leg with his stick and Gingras was carried off the ice. Findlay, after checking on Gingras' condition in the dressing room, announced a two-minute penalty to McDougall. The Winnipeg players, incensed at his leniency, left the ice and retired to their dressing room. When Findlay could not convince them to continue play, he left the rink and went home. Officials, after much debate, took a sleigh to his home and persuaded him to come back.

An hour and five minutes after play had been stopped, Findlay

signaled for a resumption of the game. But since the Winnipeg team still refused to come out of their dressing room, Findlay awarded the game to Montreal Victorias. It was discovered later that some of the Winnipeg players weren't even in their dressing room. They had dressed right after the walkout and left hurriedly in order to sample the delights of Montreal night life.

In 1899 Fred Chittick, goaltender for Ottawa, refereed a Montreal-Quebec playoff game (it was customary in those days to use players as referees), and angry Montreal players insisted that he must have been celebrating prior to game time as he was in no condition to officiate. So incensed were the Montrealers that they skated off the ice with 12 minutes to play, and the game was never completed. This was the same Chittick who a year before had refused to take part in a playoff game between Ottawa and Victorias because he claimed that management had not allotted him a fair share of complimentary tickets to the game.

Of the many challenges in Stanley Cup history 1905 provided the most unusual. The famed Ottawa Silver Seven were challenged by a Dawson City team which had to travel for four weeks and 4,000 miles, by dogteam to Skagway, boat to Vancouver, and train to Ottawa to appear in the Stanley Cup series. Dawson City had players in the line-up from many parts of Canada, all willing to interrupt their search for gold in the Yukon to battle for a piece of polished silverware. The youngest player on the team was 17-year-old Albert Forrest, the goaltender.

Upon their arrival the Klondikers watched the legendary Frank McGee in action and one of them was prompted to say, "McGee doesn't look like too much." McGee certainly didn't show much in the first game. He scored only one goal as Ottawa won 9-2. But in the second game he set a record that stands to this day of 14 goals, 8 of them in 8 minutes and 20 seconds of the second half as Ottawa breezed to a 23-2 victory. McGee scored 3 of those goals in a 90-second interval and 4 goals in 140 seconds, breaking all records along the way. Ottawa afterwards clinched their hold on the Cup for that year by defeating Rat Portage in its second try for the trophy.

Rat Portage (later Kenora) had first challenged Ottawa in 1903, and the ice conditions were so atrocious that on one occasion the puck slipped through a hole in the ice and was never retrieved. As the gate receipts were minimal, Rat Portage lost \$800 in their bid for the Cup, but, nothing daunted, they challenged again two years later following the outcome of the Ottawa-Dawson City playoff.

It was a rugged series. The second game was so rough that the referee wore a hard hat, delighting the crowd when he lost it on the ice. With Tom Phillips scoring 5 times in the first game, Rat Portage had upset Ottawa 8-3, but in the second game, Alf Smith of Ottawa

scored three goals to lead the Silver Seven to a 4-2 victory on the soft ice. It has been contended both then and many times since that the home-town boys had salted the surface to slow down the play.

Phillips and Frank McGee each scored three goals in the final game, but McGee's third was the winner in a 5-4 thriller and Ottawa took the Cup for the third year in a row. McGee had scored 18 goals in 4 games.

The Westerners (now the Kenora Thistles) were back again in 1907. They had challenged champion Montreal Wanderers for the 1906 Cup title, but no date could be found before January 1907. With Art Ross (borrowed from Brandon) teaming up with Tom Phillips on the attack, Kenora took the Cup back west. Two months later the same teams met again in Winnipeg for the 1907 title, amid much argument about "borrowed professionals." It is said that one official of the Thistles became so incensed at the attitude of the Cup trustees on the question of player eligibility, that he grabbed the trophy and threatened to throw it in the Lake of the Woods. When the dust settled, Wanderers were victorious and took the Stanley Cup back to Montreal.

There were many highlights and sidelights to Stanley Cup play from the late 1890's to 1917, and the fans, though fewer, were just as vociferous and partisan as they are today.

In 1901 Russell Bowie of Montreal Victorias led the scoring with a remarkable 24 goals in 7 games, 7 of them in a single game against the A.A.A.'s. A year later Art Hooper of Montreal scored 9 in a single game against the Shamrocks.

In 1904 Frank Patrick, Moose Johnson, Didier Pitre and Jack Laviolette all made their hockey debuts, and Russell Bowie was again the top sniper with 27 goals in 8 games. The Federal Amateur Hockey League was organized that year, and battled the Canadian Amateur Hockey League for playing talent.

Winnipeg Rowing Club with Bad Joe Hall (one of the early "villains" of organized hockey) in the line-up, played Ottawa for the Stanley Cup. Hall had been accused of being a professional but the charges were never proved. Before the first game someone suggested that a goal line be painted on the ice from goalpost to goalpost. The move met with general approval. Ottawa took the series and went on to defeat the Toronto Marlboros and tie the Montreal Wanderers of the Federal League 5-5 in a game that saw the Wanderers' goaltender, Nicholson, race the length of the ice with the puck in an unsuccessful effort to score. As an argument developed over the site of a future game, that Cup series was never completed.

But Ottawa did not rest on their laurels. They accepted a challenge from the Brandon Wheat Kings where Lester Patrick, Frank's brother, was embarking on a playing career that would cover 22 seasons. Ottawa won the two-game series with ease. In 8 playoff

games Frank McGee had scored 21 goals.

In 1905 future Hall-of-Famers Art Ross and Ernie Russell became prominent, Russell with Montreal and Ross with a new team called Montreal Westmount, which included the Patrick brothers. The most bizarre event of the season occurred when the Westmount goaltender, a fellow named Brophy, stole a page from Nicholson's book and raced down the ice with the puck in a game with Quebec. Brophy, unlike Nicholson, was successful. He scored against the famous Paddy Moran.

Newsy Lalonde, a sensational lacrosse player as well as an outstanding hockey prospect, broke in with Cornwall of the Federal League, but in his first game he severed an artery which put him on the sidelines for almost a full season. He came back in the last game, however, to restart a famous career.

In 1906 Ottawa inserted two of the famous Smith brothers into their line-up. Rookie Harry Smith had a sensational year, leading the scorers with 31 goals in 8 games. His brother Tom, though less potent, was very promising. Westmount's wandering goaltender Brophy, now with the A.A.A.'s, scored another goal in 1906, this time against the Montreal Victorias.

Queen's University, the champions of the Ontario Hockey Association, challenged and played Ottawa for the Stanley Cup during the regular season. They were swamped 16-7 and 12-7 by the powerful Ottawa team, but their top player, Marty Walsh, displayed some of the form he was to show playing for Ottawa two years later. McGee and Westwick notched four goals each in the first game, and Harry Smith scored 5 in both.

Ottawa then eliminated Smith's Falls, champions of the Federal League in two straight games, but lost no time in picking up the Falls' outstanding goalie Percy LeSueur before their series with the Wanderers. LeSueur did not play in the first game in which the Wanderers, paced by Lester Patrick, Pud Glass and Ernie Russell, upset the Silver Seven 9-1. He was in the nets, however, for the second game which was a 10-10 tie, until Lester Patrick beat him twice in the final minutes to give the Wanderers the trophy.

The year 1907 was a season of battle between amateurism and professionalism, with the Eastern Canada Amateur Hockey Association decreeing that while pros could play, all clubs must list which of their players were hired hands and which were "simon-pures." These lists were later published in the newspapers.

Hod Stuart, formerly with Pittsburgh in the International Pro League, signed on with the Wanderers and created a sensation by skating out apparently bare-kneed for the opening game; a teammate later revealed that he actually wore flesh-colored knee pads made of a stretchy material.

Ernie Russell scored 42 goals in 9 games to lead all scorers.

A team from New Glasgow, Nova Scotia challenged the Wanderers for the Cup in 1907, but proved no match for Russell, Patrick and company. The Wanderers then, in the space of two months, lost and regained the Cup in their encounters with Kenora Thistles as we have seen.

In the Federal League that same season, a hockey star was killed in a game. Owen McCourt of Cornwall was hit over the head by a stick and died in hospital the next morning. Charles Masson of Ottawa Vics was charged with murder, but at his trial, several witnesses claimed that another player's stick had struck McCourt just prior to Masson's attack on the late hockey star. Masson was acquitted.

Professionalism came into full bloom in 1908. Tom Phillips of Kenora was said to be asking \$1,800 for the season and he signed with Ottawa, as did Marty Walsh of Queen's. With the Wanderers, Art Ross took over from Lester Patrick who went west. A few teams struggled along with amateur players but the winning teams were the teams that paid, and many were the contract arguments that went on that year.

The first completely professional league in Canada, the Ontario Professional League was organized in western Ontario in 1908. It consisted of Toronto, Berlin (now Kitchener), Brantford and Guelph. Newsy Lalonde of Toronto led the League in scoring with 29 goals in 9 games. He scored 8 goals in one game against Brantford.

The Wanderers defeated the Ottawa Vics and Winnipeg before accepting the Toronto challenge for the Stanley Cup. Bruce Ridpath was the best man on the ice, and Newsy Lalonde a constant threat, but the Wanderers won the single game 6-4 and retained the trophy.

By 1909 the word "amateur" had been dropped from the name of the Eastern Canada Amateur Hockey Association because the withdrawal of Montreal and the Victorias left the circuit with four teams, all professional. The Shamrocks introduced a new player named Harry Hyland, and Quebec unveiled a budding super-star named Joe Malone, who later was to score 44 goals in a 20-game schedule. In the E.C.H.A. Marty Walsh was tops with 38 goals in 12 games.

When Edmonton challenged the Wanderers for the Stanley Cup in 1909, they established a record of sorts by playing a "ringer" for every player on the Edmonton squad with one exception. The "ringers" included Lester Patrick, Didier Pitre, Tom Phillips and Harold McNamara but the Wanderers still took the series 13-10.

A new league, the National Hockey Association, the forerunner of the N.H.L., was established in 1910 in Montreal. Franchises were awarded to the Wanderers, Renfrew, Cobalt, Haileybury and a team in Montreal to be called "Les Canadiens." The mining boom

was on in Northern Ontario, and the miners wanted the best hockey money could buy. Wealthy Ambrose O'Brien bought a great collection of stars for his Renfrew Creamery Kings, eventually to become known as the Renfrew Millionaires. He acquired Cyclone Taylor, the two Patrick brothers, Bert Lindsay, a goalkeeper and the father of Ted Lindsay, the N.H.L. star of future years, and Sprague and Eddie Cleghorn. The Patricks signed at \$3,000 each, the highest salaries offered any players up to that time.

The E.C.H.A. had been replaced by a league called the Canadian Hockey Association, but midway through the season it became apparent that the two leagues, with five teams operating in Montreal alone, could not carry on. So, the N.H.A. absorbed two of the C.H.A. teams, Ottawa and the Shamrocks, and the C.H.A. soon disbanded.

This was the year that the legendary Cyclone Taylor, playing for Renfrew, joked about scoring a goal while skating backwards. Jest-ing or not, in the next-to-final game of the season against Ottawa, Taylor took a pass from Newsy Lalonde, another high-priced player picked up by Renfrew late in the season, and, whirling completely around, skated backwards for five yards and whipped the puck in for a goal. Lalonde, who had switched during the season from Canadiens to Renfrew was top scorer in the N.H.A. with 38 goals in 11 games. A player named Oren Froot was leading goal-getter in the Ontario Professional Hockey League with 34 goals in 17 games.

Ottawa, the Stanley Cup winners in the preceding year, defeated Galt and Edmonton in Cup play early in the season, but had to turn the trophy over to the Wanderers, who were champions of the N.H.A. for the 1910 season. The Wanderers then accepted a challenge from Berlin of the O.P.H.A., and defeated them 7-3.

In 1911 Haileybury and Cobalt, small towns unable to pay the cost of major-league hockey, left the N.H.A., and the remaining club owners tried to cut down expenses by putting on a total salary limit for any one club of \$5,000. This meant that stars who earned \$1,500 to \$1,800 in the previous year might now expect a salary of around \$500 or \$600, and there was talk of a players' union. Eventually the clubs gave in and signed players (much as they had in the past) for what they thought they were worth.

In 1911 three periods of play were introduced to replace the two periods of thirty minutes each, and a youthful goaltender named Georges Vezina attracted attention for his excellent work in the nets for the Canadiens. His coolness under pressure earned him the nickname "the Chicoutimi Cucumber."

Out west, Port Arthur, winners of the newly-organized New Ontario League met Prince Albert, champions of the Saskatchewan League, and when Port Arthur won both games, they set out after the Stanley Cup. But the Ottawa Senators who had just defeated

Galt in a Cup contest proved more than a match for Port Arthur as well, swamping them 13-4, with Marty Walsh tallying 10 goals.

In 1912 franchises were awarded to two clubs in Toronto, the Torontos and the Tecumsehs. They were later dropped from the schedule when their arena was not ready for play.

A new rule went into force that, at first, drew much criticism. Each team was ordered to drop a player and play six-man hockey instead of seven. Large numerals were also ordered for the player's sweaters, and corresponding numbers with the players' names alongside were listed on a large board at rinkside. This identification system eventually led to printed programs with names and numbers included.

Moncton, New Brunswick, the champions of the Maritime Professional League, challenged N.H.A.-champion Quebec Bulldogs for the Stanley Cup and were quickly defeated in the first Stanley Cup contest played under the new six-man rules. Meanwhile, out west, Lester and Frank Patrick, having deserted Renfrew, had organized the Pacific Coast Hockey League with teams in Vancouver, Victoria and New Westminster. The new arena in Vancouver was the largest in the country and contained the first artificial ice in Canada. One of the League founders, Frank Patrick, was also one of its greatest stars. He scored 6 goals in one game while playing defense. Newsy Lalonde was the scoring champion, playing for Vancouver. Players were recruited from eastern Canada and many stars jumped to the Coast League where seven-man hockey was still in vogue. The League continued to raid the eastern clubs in 1913, and contracts often meant little more than the paper they were written on. The N.H.A., still unable to make up its mind on seven-man or six-man hockey, proposed to play six-man hockey for half the season and seven-man hockey for the other half. This arrangement was unpopular, and, late in the season, six-man hockey was decided on once and for all.

The new teams in the N.H.A. showed some players with class. Toronto had Happy Holmes, Harry Cameron, Frank Foyston, Frank Nighbor and Cully Wilson among others. Tecumsehs were weaker but boasted the two McNamara boys, both solid defense-men. Harry (Punch) Broadbent cracked the Ottawa line-up and averaged a goal a game in his rookie season, and Joe Malone of the Quebec Bulldogs scored 9 goals in the first of a two-game Cup series with Sydney, Nova Scotia which was won two straight by Quebec.

By 1914 the N.H.A. was keeping a record of assists, and the referees, tired of having their knuckles bruised by placing the puck between sticks on face-offs, were instructed to drop the puck to begin play. A goal-keeper caught lying down to stop a shot was subject to a \$2.00 fine.

An agreement was worked out between the N.H.A. and the P.C.H.A. for an annual Stanley Cup series between the respective League champions to be held alternately in the east and the west. Toronto won the N.H.A. title and defeated Victoria in Toronto for the Stanley Cup in three straight games.

The P.C.H.A. found a top man to handle refereeing duties in Mickey Ion, who was to win fame as a hockey official. Ion also began selecting all-star teams in the P.C.H.A., a practice that proved extremely popular.

The Pacific Coast League transferred the New Westminster franchise to Portland, Oregon in 1915, and for the first time in hockey history an American city was eligible to compete for the Stanley Cup. But it was Vancouver, whose Mickey Mackay was the league's top scorer that year, which won the title and met Ottawa in the Stanley Cup finals. To the surprise of easterners, Vancouver trounced Ottawa in two straight games with Frank Nighbor, Cyclone Taylor and Mickey Mackay showing the way, and the Stanley Cup went west for the first time.

The following year Seattle was added to the P.C.H.A. and their raiding of eastern teams resulted in a strong entry. The team, known as the Metropolitans, included Holmes, Carpenter, Foyston (team captain), Wilson and Walker, all with Toronto the previous year. The eastern teams retaliated by luring several western stars away from the P.C.H.A. The Stanley Cup trustees confirmed officially that year that American cities were indeed eligible to win the trophy as it was considered emblematic of world hockey supremacy. This policy departed from the original terms of the presentation by Lord Stanley, which had stated that the Cup was to be held by the championship team of Canada, but Lord Stanley had given absolute discretion to the trustees on Cup competition.

The Portland Rosebuds won the P.C.H.A. championship and challenged for the Stanley Cup, the first American team to do so. Portland out-played the Canadiens, the N.H.A. champions, in the first game of the Stanley Cup finals and won 2-0. The score might have been higher but for the brilliant play of Georges Vezina. The Canadiens took the second game on goals by Poulin and Arbour and the third 6-1 with Didier Pitre scoring three times. Portland tied up the series with a 6-5 victory, but the Canadiens wrapped it up in the fifth 2-1.

The Americans had failed in their first bid for the Stanley Cup, but things were different in March of 1917 when the N.H.A. champion Canadiens went west to meet Seattle Metropolitans, the champions of the P.C.H.L. The Canadiens surprised observers by defeating Seattle 8-4 in the first game which was played under western rules. (The P.C.H.L. still played seven-man hockey.) But Seattle roared back to defeat their opponents 6-1 in the second game (played

under eastern six-man rules), and went on to take the third and fourth 4-1 and 9-1. Bernie Morris of the Mets was the series star scoring six goals in the final game for a series total of 14, the best record since the days of Frank McGee.

For the first time in its history, the Stanley Cup had become an international trophy.

Over the years the Stanley Cup has received rude treatment at the hands of some of its holders, and many legends have sprung up around it. One story has it that the trophy was once booted, football style, into the Rideau Canal in Ottawa by a drunken member of a Cup-winning team. The canal, fortunately, was frozen solid, and when the punter sobered up hours later he was able to retrieve the silverware. In 1907, as we have seen, it nearly received a ducking in the Lake of the Woods at the hands of an enraged executive of the Kenora Thistles.

In Montreal many years ago celebrating Cup-winners stopped their car on a street corner to change a flat tire and deposited the Stanley Cup on the sidewalk. Business done, they drove off without the trophy, but returned later to find the Cup standing where they had left it.

As recently as 1962, a rabid Montreal fan, Ken Kilander, was suffering through a Canadiens playoff loss to Chicago Black Hawks. In the third period he could stand it no longer. Leaving his seat in the Chicago Stadium, he walked out into the lobby and jimmied open the glass case enclosing the Stanley Cup, which Kilander felt "rightly belongs in Montreal." He was staggering out the stadium exit with the huge trophy over his shoulder (it weighs about 150 pounds), when he was spotted by two ushers. They struggled with the 25-year-old Montrealeur until police arrived.

Kilander, booked for disorderly conduct, later told reporters, "That Cup meant everything to me and here I was holding it. Guys who were great hockey players had held it—the greatest. The fate of the Cup was in my hands." The Black Hawks did not press charges against Kilander, and the judge, obviously a fan, told him, "You're free to go back to the Stadium tomorrow night and cheer for your almighty Canadiens. But the Cup will stay here in Chicago unless the Black Hawks lose, which I doubt."

Kilander's bid for the Stanley Cup, while illegal, was much simpler and less expensive than others. Hockey men with millions of dollars have spent fortunes buying franchises, purchasing players, building teams and battling other men with similar interests in an effort to win the right to challenge for the coveted trophy.

By 1917, with the importance of the Cup clearly established in the first twenty-four years of its history, the embryo National Hockey League had a trophy of international renown to shoot for from the day of its inception.

THE EXPANDING HOCKEY FRONTIER

1917-1929

America's most colorful and exciting era of sports took place in the years after World War I and throughout the twenties. Sportswriters named it the Golden Age of Sport. Baseball had Babe Ruth. Jack Dempsey ruled boxing. Bobby Jones was the world's best golfer. Other stars like Bill Tilden (tennis), Paavo Nurmi (track), Nat Holman (basketball), and the four-legged wonder horse Man O'War captivated millions of sports fans.

Professional hockey had glittering heroes too, but the National Hockey League was in its infancy, and professional players shared the spotlight with the top amateur players of the day. In Canada, many oldtimers remember 1917 more for the introduction of the income tax than for the birth of the N.H.L.

In the years from 1917 to 1929, the National Hockey League grew into a thriving ten-team international circuit. Many famous players made their professional debuts, notably Howie Morenz, Nels Stewart, King Clancy, Frank Boucher, Eddie Shore, the Cook brothers, Tiny Thompson and Aurel Joliat to mention a few. Other great stars like Cyclone Taylor, Joe Malone, Newsy Lalonde, Bad Joe Hall and Georges Vezina reached the end of the trail.

The old Pacific Coast Hockey League passed out of existence as did the Western Canada (later Western) Hockey League, the latter after only five years of life. Six-man hockey finally became universal, goalies became free to adopt any position to defend their goals and, by the end of the period, the forward pass was allowed in all three zones. Five of the six arenas which house the present day N.H.L. teams were constructed. Conn Smythe began his legendary career as a builder of champions and Foster Hewitt made his first hockey broadcast. George Hainsworth of the Montreal Canadiens established a shutout record that still stands almost 50 years later, and Lester Patrick made his last and most memorable appearance as a substitute goalie. Four new trophies, the Prince of Wales, the Hart, the Lady Byng and the Vezina were instituted, and for the

first time the Stanley Cup came into the exclusive custody of the National Hockey League.

1917-1918

What a contrast in fifty years! When the National Hockey League doubled its size with its expansion draft in June of 1967, hockey men from all over North America were in Montreal to watch as team owners from Los Angeles, San Francisco, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, St. Louis and Minneapolis, having paid their \$2,000,000 entrance fees, gathered to select the 20 players allotted to them from the rosters of the six existing clubs. The event was front-page stuff. Hundreds of sportswriters, columnists and radio and television reporters scribbled notes, voiced opinions, dashed to telephones to file reports and generally kept all of Canada and much of the United States informed about the biggest shuffle of hockey talent ever witnessed.

One man in the crowd was veteran sports reporter Elmer Ferguson, the only sportswriter who was on the spot when the N.H.L. was formed, back in 1917. In the early days of professional hockey activity few reporters—not more than one or two—ever attended the hockey meetings to report on the goings-on. On November 22, 1917 the lone reporter in the Windsor Hotel dutifully waiting for news when the hockey sessions ended was Elmer Ferguson.

The first hockey man to emerge from behind the closed doors of the League meeting was red-haired Frank Calder, who had originally come to Canada from Britain to play soccer, but who had fallen in love with hockey. Ferguson, delighted to see the man he had succeeded as sports editor of the *Montreal Herald*, shouted across the corridor, "Hhey, Frank, what happened in there?"

"Not too much, Fergie," replied Calder, stepping into the elevator. He was too modest to reveal that he had just been elected president of a new professional hockey league.

Out of the same room came George Kennedy, smiling. The jovial Kennedy, owner of the Montreal Canadiens which he had purchased in 1910 for \$7,500 took his friend Fergie by the arm and said, "Come on down to the bar, and I'll give you the full story."

In the bar Kennedy continued, and his excitement was visible. "We formed a new hockey league called the National Hockey League, and it's just like the National Hockey Association with one exception. We haven't invited Eddie Livingstone (owner of the Toronto team) to be part of the new set-up."

Sam Lichtenhein, owner of the Montreal Wanderers, joined the pair, and hearing Kennedy's last remark added, "Don't get us wrong Elmer. We didn't throw Livingstone out; he's still got his

franchise in the old National Hockey Association. He has his team, and we wish him well. The only problem is he's playing in a one-team league."

Tommy Gorman, of the Ottawa club, chortled over the maneuver. "Great day for hockey," he said. "Livingstone was always arguing. Without him we can get down to the business of making money."

The Quebec Bulldogs had been represented at the meeting by Mike Quinn, but as they were unable to attract enough fans to their games, even with the fabulous goal-getter Joe Malone in the line-up, the Bulldogs decided not to operate that year. To balance the League then, the Toronto Arenas were admitted.

Then the Westmount Arena in Montreal, home ice of the Wanderers, burned to the ground, and the homeless Wanderers dropped out of the league. So, in its initial season, the N.H.L. operated with only three teams, the Montreal Canadiens, the Ottawa Senators and the Toronto Arenas. A playoff system was devised by dividing the season into two halves, with the winners of each half (the Canadiens and Toronto as it turned out) meeting in the finals.

There was even a form of draft that first year. Since Quebec had withdrawn, its players were divided up among the other clubs. Quebec asked \$200 per man but it is not recorded what amount (if any) was received. The Wanderers, with first choice, and before the arena fire forced them out of the League, picked up four Quebec players, but incredibly, overlooked the great Joe Malone. Canadiens grabbed him as well as rugged Joe Hall, and, with Newsy Lalonde as player-manager and Georges Vezina in goal, looked like the class of the league. Odie and Sprague Cleghorn lined up with the Wanderers, but Sprague broke a leg and was sidelined. Then brother Odie was exempted from military service, but only on condition he not play hockey.

Jimmy Murphy was announced as manager of Toronto Arenas, but he was hardly in the rink when he resigned in favor of Charlie Querrie. One of the first steps Querrie made was to post a set of rules in the Toronto dressing room.

In part, they read:

1. First and foremost do not forget that I am running this club.
2. You are being paid to give your best services to the club. Condition depends a lot on how you behave off the ice.
3. It does not require bravery to hit another man over the head with a stick. If you want to fight go over to France.
4. Do not think you are putting over something on the manager when you do anything you should not. You are being paid to play hockey not to be a good fellow.
5. I am an easy boss if you do your share. If you do not want

to be on the square and play hockey, turn in your uniform and go at some other work.

The first games in the National Hockey League were played on December 19, 1917. Toronto was beaten 10-9 by the Wanderers in their first start, and only 700 fans attended, even though all soldiers in uniform were invited to be guests of the management. The Canadiens won their opener over Ottawa 7-4 with Joe Malone connecting for five goals.

During the season, a new rule was introduced allowing goaltenders to adopt any position on the ice. They were obliged previously to adopt a stand-up position to defend the goal.

In February, 1918, Ken Randall of Toronto was advised that a weeklong suspension for quarreling with officials had been reduced to a 15 dollar fine. If that amount, (plus back fines adding up to a total of \$35) was paid at once, he would be permitted to play in the game against Ottawa. The puckish Randall tendered League officials \$32 in bills and 300 pennies. The bills were accepted, but the pennies refused. Randall placed the package of coins on the ice, and an Ottawa player banged it with his stick, scattering pennies all over the arena surface. The players had to pick them up while Randall was producing suitable folding money to make up his fine.

Joe Malone won the scoring title with 44 goals in 22 games. As Malone missed two games, he actually scored 44 goals in 20 games. No N.H.L. player since has come close to matching such a record.

In the second half of the season Toronto signed a forward named Jack Adams, who was to star as a player for many years and, later in his career, enjoy great success as manager of the Detroit Red Wings. Adams was the highest-paid Toronto player that year, receiving \$900. He scored his first goal in professional hockey during the eastern finals between the Toronto Arenas and the Montreal Canadiens. Toronto won the opener 7-3 in a rough game that saw Bert Corbeau and Newsy Lalonde involved in most of the fighting. The second game back in Montreal, was even more brutal and even though the Canadiens won 4-3, Toronto took the round on total goals.

In the Stanley Cup playoffs between Toronto and Vancouver Millionaires, the first game was played in Toronto under eastern rules. Cyclone Taylor, who had left Renfrew in 1911, got a big hand when he stepped on the ice for Vancouver. Taylor responded with two goals, but Toronto won 5-3.

Vancouver, playing under western rules in the second game, evened the series with a 6-4 victory. Mickey Mackay and Cyclone Taylor displayed expert passing. Toronto won the third game 6-3, although Mickey Mackay was easily the best player on the ice. In the fourth game, Mackay led Vancouver to an 8-1 triumph. Mackay was sensational in the final game too, but it was won by

Toronto 2-1. Corbett Denny scored the winning goal, and the Toronto Arenas became the first N.H.L. team to capture the Stanley Cup.

1918-19

With the end of the First World War it was hoped that many great hockey players in military service would be back on skates, but they were demobilized in time to join their old teams, and the 1918-19 carried on with essentially the same players as in the preceding season.

Toronto was the favorite, but the champions lost six out of the first seven games, and the Canadiens clinched the first-half championship with Newsy Lalonde providing much of the punch. Odie Johnston, free of wartime restrictions, joined the Canadiens and with a rash of goals in the second half of the schedule, beat out teammate Lalonde for goalscoring honors 24-21. Punch Broadbent, who had won the Military Cross overseas, returned to Ottawa in time for the last game of the first half of the schedule. Ottawa were the champions of the second half, while Toronto became so inept that the Arenas withdrew before the full schedule was played.

The final series between Canadiens and Ottawa was a best-of-seven affair. Ottawa who lost ace Frank Nighbor before the series started, because of a family bereavement, lost three straight. Lalonde scored five goals in the third game. With Nighbor back in harness, Ottawa won the fourth game on home ice 6-3, while the Ottawa fans pelted badman Bert Corbeau with lemons and vegetables because of an attack he had made on Jack Darragh.

Montreal took the championship with a 4-2 win in the fifth game and journeyed west to meet the Seattle Metropolitans of the Pacific Coast Hockey Association for the Stanley Cup. Canadiens and Seattle were evenly-matched and split four of the five games. In the second game Newsy Lalonde scored all four Canadian goals. The fourth game which ended in a scoreless tie after one hour and forty minutes of overtime was described as the finest game ever seen on the coast.

It was in the fifth game that observers noticed how fatigued some of the players looked. Joe Hall retired early from the contest, complaining he was sick. Other players finished the game and then were confined to bed. The great influenza epidemic which swept the continent that year had forced its way into the Stanley Cup finals. With Joe Hall in hospital and several others unable to get out of bed, the series was abandoned, and no Stanley Cup winner was declared. Hall never recovered. He died in a Seattle hospital a few days later.

1919-20

In 1919 the Quebec franchise in the N.H.L. was reactivated and players like Joe Malone, Harry Mummery and Dave Ritchie re-

turned to the Bulldogs. The Toronto Arenas underwent a rebuilding job and changed their name to St. Patricks. Old-timers say that Toronto wanted the luck of the Irish to descend on them.

Ottawa won the first half of the schedule and Joe Malone again stole the individual spotlight when he counted seven goals against Toronto on the night of January 31. No one yet has surpassed or equaled that feat in the N.H.L. Malone almost equaled his record in the final game of the season when he scored six times against Ottawa. He was the League's top scorer with 39 goals in 24 games, and Clint Benedict of Ottawa was the best goaltender, with five shutouts and an average of 2.7 goals against per game.

Large crowds turned out for games throughout the season, and Ottawa defeated St. Pats in Toronto on February 21 in front of a record crowd of 8,500. Ottawa went on to clinch the second half of the schedule, and by winning both halves eliminated the need for an eastern playoff.

Out west, banner crowds attended the P.C.H.A. finals between Seattle and Vancouver. Seattle won on total goals, 7-3, and Mets eagerly traveled east to meet Ottawa in the Stanley Cup finals. One minor problem had to be settled. Seattle uniforms were striped in red, white and green and Ottawa sweaters almost identically in red, white and black. Ottawa obligingly agreed to wear plain white jerseys.

The series got under way in late March but a warm spell made ice conditions intolerable. After skating through slush for three games, and with Ottawa holding a 2-1 lead, the rest of the series was transferred to the artificial ice rink in Toronto, the only one at the time in eastern Canada.

On Toronto ice the Mets, with Frank Foyston starring, easily took the fourth game to square the series. But Ottawa's veteran leader Jack Darragh scored three goals in what proved to be the final game, and Ottawa won the Cup in a 6-1 decision over the western champions.

1920-21

Before the season began, the in-and-out Quebec Bulldogs finally dropped out of the N.H.L. for good, and the franchise and the players were transferred to Hamilton. With the exception of veteran Joe Malone, who had won individual scoring honors the year before, the Hamilton team was quite weak, and the other N.H.L. members agreed to help out.

Toronto gave up Cecil (Babe) Dye, who promptly scored two goals in Hamilton's N.H.L. debut, a 5-0 shutout over the Canadiens. Dye was immediately recalled to the Toronto club and the St. Pats sent Hamilton a player named Mickey Roach. Dye won the goal-

scoring title that season, his sophomore year in the League, scoring 14 goals in 24 games. Cy Denneny of Ottawa was only one goal back.

Ottawa won the first half of the schedule and Toronto the second. Ottawa which had shown poorly in the second half were in top form in the playoff, defeating Toronto 5-0 in the first game. George Boucher scored three goals while playing defense, and Clint Benedict shut out Toronto again in the second game 2-0, and Ottawa went west to meet Vancouver for the Stanley Cup.

The Cup finals opened on March 21, and 11,000 fans, the largest crowd yet to see a hockey game in Canada, saw Vancouver squeak through 2-1. Ottawa took the next two games, only to have Vancouver tie the series in the fourth with Alf Skinner scoring twice. Over 2,000 fans were turned away for the final game which was won 2-1 by Ottawa with Jack Darragh scoring both goals.

Cyclone Taylor wound up his spectacular career that season, playing for Vancouver; he scored his last three goals in the final game of the regular schedule. Used sparingly by Vancouver in the Stanley Cup series, he made his next-to-last professional appearance in the last game. Two years later Taylor came out of retirement to take one final whirl with Vancouver.

1921-22

What an eventful year this turned out to be! Before the season got under way, the split schedule was abandoned and a playoff was called for between the first-place and second-place finishers. George Kennedy, one of the League's founders, sold his Canadiens Hockey Club to Joe Cattarinich and Leo Dandurand for \$11,000, and a new League was formed in western Ontario.

Two youngsters, Frank Clancy and Frank Boucher, were added to the Ottawa roster, although they saw little action. Clancy did score a goal on his first N.H.L. shot to defeat Hamilton in overtime, even though the puck failed to go in the net. He recalls it this way:

I'm sittin' on the bench like a dummy, along with Frankie Boucher. We're in overtime against Hamilton, and neither of us rookies had seen a lick of ice time. Then Petey Green sends us both out to play in the overtime. Well, the puck comes back to me like a water-melon right off the face-off, and I get rid of it quick, sending it to a teammate. He throws it back to me and I didn't have sense enough to stay back on defense. I go in on my wrong wing and take a wild shot at the net and lo and behold, the goal judge (who stood on the ice behind the net) waves his handkerchief in the air signifying a goal. I had scored on my first shot. The Hamilton goaltender was so mad he was havin' a fit and I found out why a few

days later. He told me the puck I shot didn't go in the front of the net but it went through the side of the net and it shouldn't have counted at all. But I was glad to count it no matter how it went in.

Punch Broadbent with Ottawa set an all-time record by scoring in 16 consecutive games, but though Ottawa won the N.H.L. title they lost the two-game, total-point finals to Toronto.

A new league, the Western Canada Hockey League, had begun operations that season in Western Canada with teams in Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatoon and Regina. It boasted players like Dick Irvin, Bullet Joe Simpson, Duke Keats, Mervyn (Red) Dutton and Bill Cook. Keats led the goal scorers, and one night scored eight times in a game against Saskatoon.

It was agreed that the Western League champions would play the Pacific Coast champions with the winner moving east to challenge the N.H.L. winners. Regina, paced by Dick Irvin and George Hay, represented the W.C.H.L. against Vancouver, champions of the P.C.H.A. Irvin scored the winning goal in Regina's surprise 2-1 opening-game win, but Vancouver's Hugh Lehman shut out Regina 4-0 in the second game, and Vancouver won the trip to Toronto.

In the Stanley Cup finals, Jack Adams scored three times against his old club as Vancouver took the opener 4-3. Babe Dye scored in overtime as Toronto evened the series with a 2-1 victory. Hugh Lehman then chalked up another playoff shutout in a 3-0 Vancouver triumph. But Babe Dye found the scoring range again, connecting for two goals in the fourth game and four more in game number five. Toronto won both games and walked off with the Stanley Cup.

It was in this series that Art Duncan of Vancouver tripped Babe Dye of Toronto and Dye was awarded the first penalty shot in Stanley Cup play. Dye's shot from 36 feet out sailed high over the net. The next day the Toronto *Globe* reported that "the penalty shot was found to be somewhat of a joke."

The penalty shot rule had been approved in the P.C.H.A. that season, and one of the first players to stop one was Lester Patrick, Manager of Victoria. One night Patrick subbed on defense and when goalie Norm Fowler was sent off for fighting, Lester took over Fowler's position in goal where he played for ten minutes. Observers said he handled the puck like a baseball player, and he earned a huge ovation when he stopped Jack Adams on a penalty shot. Two days later Fowler again was chased for fighting and Patrick again took over in goal, standing off Vancouver for three minutes. It was no wonder Patrick had the courage to try again in a Stanley Cup playoff game six years later in Montreal.

1922-23

Before the 1922-23 season opened, Leo Dandurand got rid of his temperamental star Newsy Lalonde by sending him to Saskatoon of the Western Canada Hockey League. Lalonde had been a great player for 18 years now, and he had three more good years before he played his final hockey game with Saskatoon. His lifetime scoring record was 441 goals in 365 games. In return for Lalonde, Dandurand obtained the services of a highly-rated amateur named Aurel Joliat. Dandurand also traded Bert Corbeau and Bouchard to Hamilton for the veteran Joe Malone, while Toronto regained Jack Adams from Vancouver in return for Corbett Denny. Ottawa lured Jack Darragh out of retirement and gave permission for Frank Boucher to go to the coast.

There is often talk about the endurance of modern-day hockey players. In today's game, a player is usually subbed every minute and a half. Compare this to the play of Ottawa's Frank Nighbor, who played six consecutive games at center ice during the 1922-23 season without a substitute, and what's more, averaged a goal a game.

Ottawa won the N.H.L. title again, and, late in the season, introduced a player named Lionel Hitchman who was to become an outstanding defenseman. Babe Dye of Toronto topped the goal scorers with 26, one more than Billy Boucher of the Canadiens.

Ottawa engaged Montreal in a rough playoff battle with Cleghorn and Couture of the Canadiens the villains. Couture deliberately hit Ottawa's Cy Denny over the head with a stick, knocking him senseless, and Cleghorn savagely cross-checked Hitchman. Leo Dandurand, a true sportsman, was so upset with his defensemen that he personally suspended them from the second game even after Ottawa took the opener.

Didier Pitre and Joe Malone filled in admirably as the Canadiens evened the series. Pitre, playing his last game after nineteen years in hockey, was a bulwark on defense. Cy Denny, recovered almost fully from a mild concussion, scored the winning goal as Ottawa won the round 3 goals to 2.

Out west that season, the P.C.H.A. decided in favor of six-man hockey similar to the game played in the east, and an interlocking schedule with the Western Canada League was worked out and approved.

Lester Patrick announced his retirement from active play, Frank Fredrickson of Victoria scored 41 goals in 30 games to win the P.C.H.A. scoring race and Newsy Lalonde, playing manager at Saskatoon, led the W.C.H.L. scorers with 29 goals, one more than George Hay.

The Edmonton Eskimos won the W.C.H.L. championship while Vancouver won on the coast. It was decided that Ottawa should journey west and play P.C.H.A. champion Vancouver first, with the winner going on to engage Edmonton of the Western League for the Stanley Cup.

Over 9,000 fans saw Ottawa win the first game against Vancouver 1-0. Vancouver evened things up with a 4-1 victory, but Ottawa came back with 3-2 and 5-1 decisions to take the series. When it was over Frank Patrick called Ottawa the greatest team he had ever seen.

When Ottawa engaged Edmonton, the fans were wildly excited at the prospect of a man-against-man battle between Duke Keats and Frank Nighbor. Edmonton fans predicted that Keats would chase Nighbor right out of the rink. But Nighbor, one of the great players in hockey, played his usual superb game, and Keats was hard pressed to handle the canny Ottawa player.

It was in one of the games in this series that King Clancy played every position for the Senators, including goal. Clancy played both defense spots and every forward position; then, when goalie Clint Benedict was penalized and sent off, he handed his stick to Clancy and said, "Here kid. Take care of this place till I get back."

Clancy did and was not scored on.

Ottawa took the best of three series in two straight. Punch Broadbent scored the only goal of the second game and Eddie Gerard, the man who taught Clancy most of the tricks of play, had played his last game as a professional. A growth in his throat forced him into retirement.

In March of 1923 a teen-aged reporter and announcer with the *Toronto Star's* new radio station CFCA, a boy named Foster Hewitt, was given an assignment to broadcast a hockey game between Kitchener and Parkdale at Mutual Street Arena. It was the beginning of a career that would make Hewitt's voice the most familiar in Canada for the next four decades. In years to come his shrill cry, "He shoots . . . he scores!" would hold the attention of an entire nation, and Hewitt, more than any other person, would make Saturday night truly "Hockey Night in Canada." No other sportscaster in history, in Canada or anywhere else, ever served a sport so well.

1923-24

Ottawa had a new arena seating 10,000 ready for the 1923-24 season. The champion Senators had all their regulars back with the exception of Eddie Gerard. Montreal unveiled a newcomer named Howie Morenz, but not before Morenz had entertained second thoughts about turning pro. He had accepted money from

the Canadiens in September, but then decided to play another season with Stratford as an amateur. Mr. W. A. Hewitt, Foster's father and secretary of the Ontario Hockey Association, was asked to make a ruling on Morenz. Apparently Hewitt sided with Leo Dandurand and the Canadiens, because Morenz shortly joined the Canadiens at their training camp to begin one of the greatest of all hockey careers.

In February of 1924, a special meeting of the League was held to discuss plans for expanding into the United States, and it was announced that a special trophy called the Dr. Hart trophy would be awarded to the player judged most useful to his team during the season. The first winner of the Hart trophy, which became the most coveted individual award in hockey, was Frank Nighbor who edged Sprague Cleghorn by a single vote.

That was the season Ottawa introduced a rugged forward named Frankie Pinnigan and Hamilton signed Red and Shorty Green. Sylvio Mantha signed with Montreal Canadiens, as did Bobby Boucher, the brother of Billy, Frank and George.

Ottawa won the League championship and met Montreal in the playoffs. Rookie Howie Morenz, the darling of the Montreal fans, scored the only goal in a 1-0 Montreal victory. 11,000 fans turned out in Ottawa for the return match, and again it was Morenz, with Aurel Joliat and Billy Boucher, a line that averaged 145 pounds in weight, who stopped the Senators 4-2.

The Stanley Cup finals were held in Montreal and the Canadiens took on first Vancouver of the P.C.H.A. beating them in two straight games, and then Calgary of the Western League. Canadiens rolled to a 6-1 triumph in the opening game against Calgary, but the surface was so slushy that the second game was transferred to Ottawa, where the new arena had artificial ice. Canadiens won again 3-0 to capture the Stanley Cup.

1924-25

The National Hockey League became an international League in November of 1924 when, at the League's annual meeting in Montreal, a franchise was granted to the city of Boston. The purchaser of the franchise was Charles Adams. Applications from New York, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia were shelved, but a franchise was awarded to James Strachan and Donat Raymond who promised to see another strong team, the Maroons, in Montreal.

Art Ross was named manager of the Boston Bruins and quickly signed an outstanding amateur player named Carson Cooper. Ottawa signed some new boys too, including Alex Connell, a brilliant goaltender, Hooley Smith of the Canadian Olympic team and Ed Gorman. Bert McCaffrey and a good-looking youngster named

Clarence (Hap) Day signed on with Toronto St. Patricks. In Montreal a new arena called the Forum was ready for play, and 8,000 turned out for the opening game of the season.

The schedule had now been increased to 30 games and a new playoff system gave the first-place team a bye while the second and third place teams played off to determine who should meet the League champions. This system was partly responsible for sparking one of the most unusual happenings in hockey, a player's strike. Hamilton had won the League title and drawn the bye. Now it was up to the Montreal Canadiens and the Toronto St. Pats to battle it out for the right to meet the Tigers. But Red Green, speaking for the Hamilton players, pointed out that his two-year contract called for 24 games a season. If the League and the Hamilton club would not come up with \$200 more per player, he said, the Hamilton players would not show up for the finals.

An angry League president Frank Calder ordered the players to suit up or else; when they remained adamant, he announced that the winner of the Canadiens-St. Pats series would be recognized as League titlists. The Hamilton players remained on strike. Later, at a special League meeting on April 17, the Hamilton players were suspended and fined \$200 each. This was the beginning of the end for hockey in Hamilton.

Babe Dye of Toronto won the N.H.L. scoring race with 38 goals, eight more than Howie Morenz and nine up on Aurel Joliat. Dye, Red Green of Hamilton and Punch Broadbent of Ottawa all had five-goal games during the season.

In the west, the P.C.H.A. had foundered, but two of its clubs, Vancouver and Victoria joined the Western Canada Hockey League, and Victoria emerged as the League champions. Regina of the W.C.H.L. introduced a new player named Eddie Shore who was soon to make a great name for himself in hockey.

The Canadiens won the N.H.L. title, defeating St. Pats two straight and journeyed west to meet the Victoria team in the finals. Victoria skated rings around the Montreal team in the first game, winning 5-2, and in the second, seen by 11,000 fans, they triumphed again. Howie Morenz was the sparkplug of the Canadiens banging in three goals as Montreal took the third game 4-1, but Victoria came back to win the fourth game and the Stanley Cup.

1925-26

Before the 1925-26 season got under way, the Hamilton franchise was sold to New York and the Hamilton players transferred to the new N.H.L. team, the Americans. A few weeks later, at another League meeting, Pittsburgh Pirates were admitted to the League, and Odie Cleghorn was named Pittsburgh representative.

Albert (Pit) Lepine, Albert Leduc and Hector Lepine were among the newcomers in the Montreal Canadiens camp, and the Montreal Maroons added Nels Stewart and Babe Seibert, Stewart, playing both center and defense, was the scoring sensation of the season and went on to win the Hart trophy. The New York Americans obtained Joe Simpson from Edmonton, and Pittsburgh landed Roy Worters, Lionel Conacher, Harold (Baldy) Cotton and Harold Garragh.

Alex Connell of the Ottawa Senators attained a sparkling goals-against average of 1.2 a game and made 15 shutouts in 32 games. But tragedy struck the Canadiens when their goaltender, the great Georges Vezina, was forced out of a game with Pittsburgh Pirates early in the season and died of tuberculosis shortly thereafter.

Out west Eddie Shore was a big gun for Edmonton, and Bill Cook and Dick Irvin were the top scorers in the western circuit which was now known as the Western Hockey League.

Lester Patrick, though 43 years old, couldn't stay off the ice. When one of his Victoria players was injured, Patrick pulled on a uniform and scored a couple of key goals. Victoria won the Western League title and moved east to meet the Montreal Maroons for the Stanley Cup. Montreal, in the N.H.L. playoffs, had eliminated Pittsburgh and Ottawa. Nels Stewart was the star of the Cup finals, scoring 6 goals in 4 games as the Maroons took the series three games to one.

This series marked the last time that any team outside the N.H.L. challenged for the Stanley Cup. The coveted trophy now came into the exclusive custody of the National Hockey League.

1926-27

Next to Canada's Centennial year, when new teams from six American cities gained admittance to the N.H.L., 1926 was the biggest single year in the expansion of the thriving hockey circuit. A second team, the Rangers, was admitted from New York. A team called the Black Hawks was installed in Chicago with Pete Muldoon at the reins, and the Cougars, coached by Art Duncan, were the new entry from Detroit.

The N.H.L. which had grown to ten teams was broken into two divisions. The "Canadian" Division consisted of the Toronto St. Patricks, the Ottawa Senators, the New York Americans, the Montreal Maroons and the Montreal Canadiens, and the "American" Division of the Boston Bruins, the New York Rangers, the Pittsburgh Pirates, the Chicago Black Hawks and the Detroit Cougars.

Colonel John Hammond had a franchise for his New York Rangers. Now he needed a man who could supply some players. A young man from Toronto named Conn Smythe was recommended

and hired. Smythe pitched right in and picked up goaltender Lorne Chabot from Port Arthur, defensemen Ching Johnson and Taffy Abel from the Minneapolis team of the Central United States League, and others like Bill and Bun Cook, Frank Boucher and Murray Murdoch. All turned out to be outstanding professional players, but the shrewd Smythe signed them, as well as twenty-five others, for a total of \$32,000. It has been estimated that, even before today's inflated prices for hockey talent, the 31 men signed by Smythe were worth \$300,000.

His reward? Before the first Ranger game in 1926 he was dismissed as manager-coach. It seems that someone persuaded Hammond that while Smythe might recognize hockey talent, he lacked the experience to handle the new team. Hammond hired Lester Patrick and paid off Smythe with a check for \$7,500. This was later supplemented by another \$2,500 when the Ranger management realized how valuable his scouting had been.

Smythe, always a battler, vowed that he would some day organize another hockey team which would be even better than the club he had handed over to Lester Patrick. Smythe moved back to Toronto where the last place St. Pats were in trouble and up for sale. The asking price for the club was \$200,000 which was exactly \$190,000 more than the Major had to his name. But he turned over his entire fortune to the St. Pats owners, J. P. Bickell, Charlie Querric, N. I. Nathanson and Paul Ciceri in return for a thirty-day option to purchase.

Smythe managed to raise \$160,000, and then he convinced the owners that they would do well to sell out to a Torontonians who would guarantee that the team would not be transferred to another city. The idea appealed to the owners, and the deal was made with \$75,000 on the line and \$85,000 payable within a month. Before a game was played under the new ownership, Smythe was offered \$200,000 for his team which he named the Maple Leafs but he turned down the offer without a second thought.

The new ten-team N.H.L. was strengthened by players streaming in from the Western Hockey League, which had folded at the end of the past season and sold all its talent for a bargain \$258,000. Eddie Shore wound up with Boston, together with Duke Keats, Perk Galbraith, Harry Oliver and Harry Meeking. Detroit took Frank Fredrickson, Frank Foyston, Clem Loughlin, Art Duncan (as coach), Jack Walker and Slim Halderson.

The Cook brothers and Frank Boucher joined the Rangers. Leo Reise and Laurie Scott were signed by the Americans. Chicago snared Dick Irvin, Mickey Mackay, George Hay, Rabbit McVeigh, Percy Traub and Jim Riley, and the Montreal Canadiens grabbed Art Gagne, Herb Gardiner and Amby Moran. Jack Adams headed

for Ottawa, Red Dutton went to Montreal Maroons, and Jack Bailey joined Pittsburgh.

For the first time the best hockey players in the world were all playing under one roof.

The leading scorer in the Canadian Division in 1926-27 was Howie Morenz of the Canadiens with 32 points, four more than Art Bailey of Toronto. In the American Division Bill Cook of the Rangers edged Chicago's Dick Irvin by a single point, 37 to 36.

Both teams were allowed to enter the playoffs for the Stanley Cup. In the Canadian Division, Ottawa finished on top and waited to meet the winner of a series between the second-place Canadiens and the third-place Maroons. The Canadiens won, but were eliminated by Ottawa, led by Cy Denneny, Frank Finnigan and King Clancy.

In the American Division, Boston met Chicago in the semi-final with the winner getting a chance at first-place New York. Boston edged Chicago, and after a scoreless first game in the two-game series with New York, the Bruins won the series 3 goals to 1 in the second game.

The Ottawa-Boston clash was a memorable Stanley Cup series. The first game was a scoreless draw, and Ottawa won the second. The third game went into overtime and was finally declared a tie. When Ottawa won the fourth game 3-1, it also took the Stanley Cup, because N.H.L. President Frank Calder had ruled earlier that the series would be terminated after four games. He didn't want anyone to get the notion that the players might welcome an extra game.

The final game almost ended the playing career of Billy Couture, now a Boston defenseman. He assaulted the game officials and was fined \$100 and suspended for life. He was later reinstated. Couture wasn't the only player to show his temper. Hooley Smith of Ottawa was fined \$100 and suspended for one month of the following season for hitting Boston's Harry Oliver just as the game ended.

Ottawa had a fabulous team that year with players like Jack Adams, King Clancy, Alex Connell, Frank Nighbor, Cy Denneny, Frank Finnigan and Hec Kilrea on the roster, and the Boston Bruins had been sparked by the former Western League star Eddie Shore, who was to become a legendary figure in hockey before hanging up his skates many years later.

1927-28

In 1927 Jack Adams, a member of the Stanley-Cup-champion Senators in the preceding season, was asked to take over the Detroit Cougars as manager-coach. Art Duncan of Detroit moved on to play for the Toronto Maple Leafs who were being reorganized by Conn Smythe.

Pete Muldoon was fired as coach of the Chicago Black Hawks and in leaving, according to sports columnist Jim Coleman, put the "curse of the Muldoons" on the Chicago club. He was alleged to have said that the penance the Hawks would pay for dismissing him would be that they would never win the N.H.L. pennant. Strangely enough, this alleged "curse" stood up for forty years. The Black Hawks finally shook Muldoon's "magic" by finishing first in the 1966-67 season. Barney Stanley and Hugh Lehman split the Hawk coaching job during the 1927-28 season, but their combined efforts resulted in a mere seven victories for the Chicago team.

In the Canadian Division the Ottawa Senators began to slip and finished third behind the first-place Montreal Canadiens and the second-place Montreal Maroons, and Howie Morenz led the scoring for the second straight year. Boston was on top of the American Division, with New York and Pittsburgh not far behind.

The Rangers ousted Pittsburgh Pirates and then Boston Bruins to earn a Stanley Cup berth against Maroons, who had defeated Senators and Canadiens in the Canadian Division. The finals got under way April 5th in Montreal with the Maroons taking the opener 2-0.

Lester Patrick of the Rangers had long since retired as an active player when his team skated out against Maroons two nights later. Little did he know that he was about to become the central figure in one of the most amazing sports performances ever. After four minutes of play in the second period, Nels Stewart rifled a shot that caught goalie Lorne Chabot flush in the eye. Chabot was taken to hospital, and Patrick immediately asked Eddie Gerard, the manager of the Maroons, for permission to use Alex Connell, the great Ottawa goaltender, as a substitute. Gerard refused. Patrick then asked for Hugh McCormick from London in the Canadian Pro League, but again his request was turned down.

Patrick, fuming, then decided to put on the pads and play in the nets himself. He had done the same thing on two or three occasions before, but never with so much at stake. The silver-haired Patrick was forty-four years old, and the fans alternately hooted and cheered when he shuffled onto the ice to take his warm-up shots.

When play began, Patrick amazed the fans with his agility. Throughout the rest of the game and into overtime he handled the shots and was beaten only once, when Stewart scored on Smith's rebound.

At 7:05 of the first overtime period the Rangers broke through and scored. The exhausted Patrick, dripping with perspiration, was mobbed by his players and escorted to the dressing room. It is strange but fitting that Patrick, who spent his whole life in hockey and made many outstanding contributions to the game, will always

be remembered more for his play as a substitute Stanley-Cup goaltender than for anything else he ever did. It was one of hockey's most electrifying occasions.

The Rangers dropped the next game with minor-league goalie Les Miller in the nets, but with Chabot back in harness they won the following two games and skated off with the Stanley Cup.

One remarkable record established during this season belongs to goaltender Alex Connell of the Ottawa Senators, who played six consecutive games during the season without allowing a single goal. His record shutout sequence reached 446 minutes and 9 seconds.

1928-29

The game opened up during the 1928-29 season when the rules were changed to allow forward passing in all three zones. Before this a forward pass was allowed only in the defending and center zones.

Goaltender Lorne Chabot went from the New York Rangers to the Toronto Maple Leafs in exchange for John Ross Roach, and the Boston Bruins unveiled Cecil (Tiny) Thompson. Thompson who had performed brilliantly in goal at Duluth and Minneapolis, was embarking on a spectacular career with the Bruins that would cover the next decade. He was to win the Vezina Trophy four times over that span, a record that stood until 1949 when Bill Durnan of Canadiens won his fifth.

The Maroons underwent an expensive rebuilding campaign in Montreal in an effort to win fans away from the popular Canadiens. Money was no object, and the Maroons molded a powerful club. They bought Hooley Smith for \$22,500 and Dave Trottier for \$15,000. Dunc Munro was purchased for \$8,000 and Reg Noble for \$7,000. Nels Stewart and Babe Seibert received huge bonuses for signing and Jimmy Ward, father of baseball's Pete Ward, earned \$17,000 in salary and bonuses.

But despite this impressive line-up, the Maroons still finished last in the Canadian Division while the Canadiens finished on top. Sandwiched in between were the Americans, Maple Leafs and Senators in second, third and fourth place.

Ace Bailey of Toronto won individual scoring honors with 32 points, three ahead of Nels Stewart of Montreal. Boston, with Thompson, Shore, Gainor and Oliver playing superbly, finished on top of the American Division, four points ahead of New York.

A new playoff system was devised in which the first-place finishers in each division would meet in one series while the second-place finishers were meeting in another. The Boston Bruins polished off the Montreal Canadiens in three straight games with Tiny Thompson scoring shutouts in two of them.

In series B between Rangers and Americans only one goal was scored. The first game was a scoreless tie and the second went 15 minutes and 50 seconds into overtime before the Rangers beat goalie Roy Worters to win the round.

In the Stanley Cup finals, a best-of-three affair, the Rangers had as much trouble beating Thompson as had the Canadiens. Boston won the series two straight taking the first 2-0 and the second 3-1. In five playoff games, Thompson's record was three shutouts; his goals-against average was .50.

1928-29 was "the year of the shutout" and the man who scored a record number of them was diminutive George Hainsworth of the Canadiens. Hainsworth, over the course of the 44-game schedule, blanked the opposition in no less than 22 games. No player has come close to that mark since. Perhaps no player ever will.

THE THRIVING THIRTIES

1929-1939

In the decade between the stock-market crash and the outbreak of the Second World War, professional hockey grew and changed and attracted thousands of new fans. New players like Charlie Conacher, Frank Jackson, Murph Chamberlain, Turk Broda and Syl Apps arrived on the scene. Established stars like King Clancy and the other Patricks terminated their association with playing, but not with hockey itself. A broken leg ended the career of the Stratford player Howie Morenz; that of the great goaltender, Charlie Gardiner, was cut short by a brain hemorrhage, and, in the most celebrated "incident" in N.H.L. history, Ace Bailey nearly lost his life.

It was the end of an era too for hockey in Ottawa. Beset by financial difficulties, the Ottawa Senators gave up their franchise in 1934 and ended the city's association with major-league hockey which dated back to before the turn of the century. The short-lived Montreal Maroons and Pittsburgh Pirates also disappeared, but the sorely-troubled New York Americans managed to stave off the final disaster for a few years more when the League itself took the team over.

Conn Smythe defied the cryers of doom and the Depression to build his Maple Leaf Gardens in record time, with an unprecedented assist from the construction unions; the schedule was increased to 48 games, making writers wonder in print how the players could ever keep up the pace. Mud Bruneteau ended the longest game in N.H.L. history with a tally at 176:30, and the fans began the pleasant custom of keeping the pucks that were fired into the crowd.

1929-30

Thanks largely to the efforts of Conn Smythe, hockey interest in Toronto began building up in the late twenties, and after half the games had been played during the 1927-28 schedule in the old Arena Gardens, Smythe found himself turning people away at

the gate. The capacity of the arena on Mutual Street was only about 8,000 and Smythe felt that a building seating at least 12,000 was necessary to make his team a paying proposition. He decided that Toronto needed a new arena, and went out to find a suitable site. One property he considered was on the waterfront close to Yonge Street, but its purchase called for payments which Smythe considered to be unethical. He then became interested in a location on Spadina Crescent, the site of the Presbyterian theological college, but nearby residents were so vehement in their objections that the proposal was abandoned. Finally, with the co-operation of the J. Eaton Company, the Leaf leader obtained land on Carlton Street at Church at a bargain price.

Collecting money in those Depression days would try any man's ability, but Smythe, assisted by right-hand man Frank Selke, pushed and prodded, and soon \$1,000,000 was in the till. But this was still \$200,000 short of the objective, and for a time it looked as though the whole project might collapse.

A local financial group offered to step in at this point and build the Gardens in return for the Maple Leaf franchise. Smythe refused. He turned for help to men who really understood his problem, the workmen, the unions, and the supply contractors. With the exception of one trade, *(and for the first time in Canadian labor history)* all agreed to take stock in the Gardens as partial payment of wages. Their confidence paid off, as millions of dollars in dividends have been earned by the shareholders in the thirty-six years since the Gardens opened.

With the blueprints drawn and the project under way, the Toronto team played their last season in Arena Gardens. A powerful rookie named Charlie Conacher was brought up from junior ranks and became an immediate favorite with his booming shot. He actually scored a goal on his first shift in N.H.L. play.

On December 7th, Harvey Jackson, a classy left-winger was signed by the Leafs. He joined two of his former junior teammates, Charlie Conacher and Joe Primeau in pro ranks. Jackson was only 18 years old, the third youngest player ever to join the N.H.L. up to that time. (King Clancy and Hec Kilrea of Ottawa were a few months younger than Jackson when they broke in.) He was given his nickname of "Busher" by Tim Daly, the Leaf trainer, soon after he broke into the league. Daly ordered him one day to help move some equipment out to the Leaf bench.

Jackson said, "You'll have to get yourself another boy. I'm a hockey player, not an equipment man."

Daly muttered, "Why you fresh young bushier!" And it was Bushier Jackson from then on.

This was the season in which the first face mask appeared in the N.H.L. Clint Benedict of Ottawa suffered a broken nose when

one of Howie Morenz's shots hit him in the face. In the next game he appeared wearing a crude face mask and set a precedent for the league.

One of Toronto's players that year was Art Duncan, who had been playing professional hockey since 1914. He was to be coach of the Leafs in the following season before they made their debut in the new Maple Leaf Gardens. After outstanding military service in the First World War, Duncan played on the coast and once led the Western League in scoring — the only time a defenseman had ever accomplished such a feat.

Gooney Weiland, the Boston Bruins' clever center, led the N.H.L. point getters in 1929-30 with 73 points in the American Division. He was top goal scorer too, with 43, two more than his teammate Art Clapper. The Bruins lost only 5 games all season. They set an N.H.L. record when they went 14 games without a loss and another after they completed 23 without a loss.

The oddity of the season was Lester Patrick's order to all his players to drink a glass of hot water every morning upon arising whether they liked it or not.

In the playoffs Boston eliminated the Montreal Maroons in the first series while the Canadiens advanced to the final series by defeating the New York Rangers. Canadiens' "little men of steel" weren't given too much chance against the Bruins who had won the American Division by 30 points. But they played first-class hockey and polished off the Bruins 3-0 and 4-3 to take their first Stanley Cup since 1924. Three veterans of the 1924 team, Morenz, Joliat and Mantha, were still with them.

1930-31

The Stanley Cup Champion Canadiens were a powerhouse again in the following season as were the Boston Bruins.

Howie Morenz led the Canadiens to a first-place finish in the Canadian Division and won the Hart trophy. He was a dashing center, comparable to Rocket Richard or Bobby Hull for his ability to lift the spectators from their seats with his electrifying rushes.

One night in Toronto when Morenz had been giving the Leafs all kinds of trouble, Conn Smythe finally assigned his 210-pound defenseman Bert Corbeau the task of stopping Morenz at any cost. Corbeau braced himself at the blue line as Morenz swept in and caught Howie with a terrific check that sent him sprawling. As Morenz hit the ice, Corbeau grinned over at the Leaf bench and yelled at Smythe, "See that, Mr. Smythe? I stopped him for you."

"Look behind you!" barked Smythe. Morenz, just as he was hit, had rifled a shot at the Leaf goal, and the red light was advertising the result.

On the eve of the 1930 season, with money tighter than ever as

the Depression deepened, Conn Smythe spent a small fortune in order to obtain King Clancy of the Ottawa Senators. He thought so highly of the aggressive little Ottawa defenseman that he handed over \$35,000 and players Art Smith and Eric Fiddler. The Senators had never dreamed that Smythe would pay a premium on a player who was often called "150 pounds of muscle and conversation" and who had been around the NHL for 14 seasons. But Smythe knew his Toronto team lacked a player who could supply the same kind of fire on the ice that Clancy himself generated from behind the bench. So the Leafs bought Clancy, and the investment is still paying off. Today Clancy is the oldest man in hockey still active at the N.H.L. level, and his motto now, as it was when he first broke in, is, "If you don't have fun, what's the sense in playing?"

His teammates, men like Charlie Conacher, Baldy Cunniff and Hap Day laughingly claim that Clancy never won a battle on the ice. But in a serious vein, they will add that he never backed down from a battle and that he did more for team morale than any other player with that colorful Leaf club.

While insisting that he never skated away from a fight, Clancy sometimes found novel methods of avoiding them. One time in Boston he pushed Eddie Shore into the boards, and while Clancy hated being bumped by anyone, this humiliation from a 130-pounder was too much. The Boston defenseman jumped to his feet, threw his gloves and cocked his fist to throw a punch. Clancy immediately grabbed the bare hand, shook it warmly and said, "Why don't you grab Eddie. How are you tonight?"

Even the belligerent Shore had to laugh.

Today, as assistant general-manager of the Leafs, King Clancy is still drawing laughs and having fun in hockey. Punch lines are still getting to know Clancy, the greatest guy I've ever crossed paths with in this game.

Hap Day was Captain of the Leafs in 1930-31. Charlie Conacher had signed him to a St. Patricks' contract in 1925 after assuming the graduate pharmacist that he could successfully combine hockey and business. When the Gardens opened in November, 1924, Hap Day Pharmacy was located just west of the front entrance. With Day and Clancy as leaders and the "Kid Line" of Charlie Conacher, Busher Jackson and Joe Primeau controlling the play, as have few lines in hockey history, the Leafs appeared to be coming in strength to the teams from Montreal. But, although they were ahead of the Maroons that season, they couldn't catch the mighty Canadiens.

The Pittsburgh Pirates, winners of a mere five games in 1930-31, had been shifted to Philadelphia, where Benny Leonard the pitcher

was running the show. The team had some good players, but they lost the season with a record low total of 12 points, after losing and tying four. The owners lost over \$100,000, and the Pirates were dropped out of the League at the end of the season.

In the playoffs, Chicago defeated Toronto in series B and the Bruins defeated the Maroons in series C. The Black Hawks then won the finals against the Canadiens by eliminating the Canadiens with two straight shutouts.

There had been a battle between the first-place finishers, the Bruins and the Montreal Canadiens. Three of the five games went into overtime before Canadiens ousted the Bruins 3-2. It was in the second game of this series that Art Ross, the Bruins' goaltender, "Tiny Thompson, in the last minute of play, made an extra forward in an unsuccessful attempt to score. This was called a 'goaltender maneuver,' as it was called in the next day's papers, the first time in Stanley Cup play that a goalkeeper had stepped from the nets.

The surprising Hawks gave the Canadiens a real battle for the Cup. Johnny Gottselig scored an overtime goal to tie the game 1-1 after Canadiens took the opener. Then another overtime goal by Westworth put the Hawks in front 2 games to 1. Then the Hawks, who had entered the series with Armand Mondou, Georges, Battleship Leduc and Pit Lepine out with injuries, won the Cup by taking the series 4-2. Howie Morenz scored the final goal of the series in the fifth game, and Aurel Joliat played one of the greatest games of his career.

The Ottawa Senators, after finishing just a point behind the two best teams in 1929-30, won only ten games in 1930-31 and were relegated to the basement of the Canadian Division. The Senators were given a one year suspension of their franchise in order to regroup and joined Philadelphia on the sidelines. This left the league with eight teams, four in each division.

1931-32

At the start of the 1931-32 season, Conn Smythe landed young Harold Howe on loan from the defunct Philadelphia club. Harold Howe was picked up from Boston for the waiver price, and Frank Boucher was obtained from Ottawa.

The construction of the new Maple Leaf Gardens was under way, and whenever it was discussed, someone would always say, "Smythe can't finance it," or, "If he does, he'll never have it ready for the November opening" or, "You can't tell me he'll ever fill the place." Some even said he would never build a winning team, and he turned to have these doubting Thomases eat their words. The completion of the Gardens was an engineering miracle. On

April 1, the houses and stores on the property were torn down. On June 1 the steam shovels took over, and on November 12, right on schedule, the Gardens was open for business. A capacity crowd (13,542) turned out to witness the Leafs and Chicago play the first game, but Chicago, not once a winner on Toronto ice in the past, spoiled the opener for Toronto fans by beating the Leafs 3-1.

Having silenced his critics on three counts, Smythe now set about molding a Stanley Cup winner. He offered the Montreal Canadiens \$75,000 for Howie Morenz but was turned down. He made an effort to purchase Johnny Gottselig from Chicago, but Bill Tobin, the Black Hawks' manager wanted Clancy and Conacher in return. Smythe sent him a note to the effect that Santa Claus lived in the North Pole, not in Maple Leaf Gardens.

When the Leafs skidded to last place after half a dozen games, Smythe decided to replace coach Art Duncan with Dick Irvin who had been fired by Chicago the preceding season. With Irvin at the helm, the Leafs leaped from last place to first within a month. They couldn't keep pace with the Canadiens, however, and finished second in the Canadian Division.

Bill Cook of the New York Rangers scored 34 goals to share the N.H.L. lead with the Leafs' Charlie Conacher. Frank Boucher, Cecil Dillon, Bun Cook and Art Somers accounted for most of the scoring as the Rangers took first place in the American Division. Busher Jackson, Joe Primeau and Charlie Conacher, the "Kid Line," were one, two and four respectively in the Canadian Division scoring race, with the Canadiens' Howie Morenz slipping into third place ahead of Conacher.

The Leafs disposed of the Chicago Black Hawks in one semi-final series while the Montreal Maroons eliminated the renamed Detroit Falcons. In the third series the Rangers beat the Canadiens 3 games to 1. Then the Maroons and the Leafs battled it out for the right to meet the Rangers. Dick Irvin changed his lines rapidly, and this tactic paid off for the Leafs. When the second game went into overtime, the Leafs, who appeared to be fresher than the Maroons, won at 17:59.

The finals opened in New York, and the Leafs swept to the Cup in three straight games. It was the first time in Stanley Cup history that a team had won the final series three straight. Leafs scored 6 goals in each game, winning 6-4, 6-2 and 6-4. Sportswriters later referred to it as "the tennis series." Conn Smythe's vow, that he would some day build a hockey club that would be better than the one he had put together in New York before he was fired, had finally been fulfilled. One man who was there to help celebrate that victory was Frank Selke, a man who preferred to keep in the background but who was a vital member of the Leaf organization. Steeped in hockey knowledge since his early days in Kitchener,

he had been of great assistance during the building of the Gardens, and he played a major role in the molding of the Cup winners. Later, he would be called upon to rebuild the Montreal Canadiens into the mightiest powerhouse ever to perform in the N.H.L.

The 1931-32 season, incidentally, saw the beginning of the 48-game schedule despite dire predictions from many hockey followers that the players will never be able to stand the pressure of more games.

1932-33

The Boston Bruins, winners of their division title by 30 points in 1931-32, had fallen all the way to last place in 1931-32, and Art Ross made some changes before the new schedule got under way. He secured Nels Stewart from the Montreal Maroons and thick-set Burch from New York Americans. Oss Heximer and Red Gaudin were added, and with Eddie Shore enjoying his finest season, the Bruins were soon on their way up the ladder again.

Lester Patrick's New York Rangers also landed a well-known player Maroon, Babe Seibert. They placed Seibert on a line with Cecil Dillon, whom Patrick once described as "possibly the greatest ever seen," and a youngster named Carl Voss. Voss was soon to move on to Detroit and by the season's end he was named the outstanding rookie in the league. After his playing days were over, Voss turned to officiating; he recently retired as Referee-in-Chief of the National Hockey League.

The Maroons had two fine-looking prospects in their line-up. Hugh Plaxton, the star of Canada's 1928 Olympic team, the Varsity Blade, decided to take a whirl at pro hockey, and the Maroons also expected great things from Mickey Blake.

Ottawa, as promised, resumed play in the N.H.L. and called back players they'd loaned to other clubs. Syd Howe, Hec Kilrea and Frank Finnigan, all natives of Ottawa, returned home and the Senators obtained Cooney Weiland from Boston. Weiland turned out to be their top scorer, but the Senators' comeback still earned them no more than last place in the Canadian Division.

The season was little more than a month old when Col. John Hammond resigned his position as President of the New York Rangers hockey club. His place was taken by Lester Patrick, who had been coach of the Rangers since 1926.

Cecil Hart, who had guided the Canadiens since 1925, was replaced by former Canadiens star Newsy Lalonde, and Tommy Gorman took over as coach of the Chicago Black Hawks, replacing the deposed Emil Iverson. Major Frederic McLaughlin, then owner of the Hawks, changed coaches more often than Tommy Manville changed wives. From 1926 to 1940 he changed coaches fourteen

times, and even hired a publicity man and a baseball umpire to his team.

The Leafs and the Maroons fought it out for the championship of the Canadian Division, and the Leafs finished on top by four points. Busher Jackson won his second straight scoring title in the Canadian circuit and Bill Cook of the Rangers took his second straight for the American Division.

Detroit and Boston finished with identical records: 25 wins, 11 losses and 8 ties. Bruins who had the better goals average, won Toronto in series A. Four of the five games went into overtime, and the last one which began on April 3, 1933 and finished well into April 4 will live long in the memory of those who saw it.

Neither team scored in the first two periods. Then Alex Smith fired one past Lorne Chabot in the Toronto goal after 14 minutes of the third, but referee Odie Cleghorn called it back because of an offside. The game was still scoreless after sixty minutes. It remained scoreless after the first overtime period. Then came a second, a third, a fourth and even a fifth overtime.

After the first 100 minutes of extra time, Conn Smythe and Art Ross asked president Frank Calder if they could halt play and resume the following night. Their request was turned down. It was then suggested that a coin be tossed to determine the winner. The players were willing, but the fans voiced their displeasure. Calder then proposed that the two goaltenders be removed, but few thought much of that idea.

At 4:46 of the sixth overtime period, Andy Blair of the Leafs intercepted a pass from Eddie Shore and fed the puck to little Ken Doraty who raced in to score. Time of the goal was 164:46. Doraty would be forgotten by most fans today but for the goal that ended the longest overtime game played up to that season. A longer one would be played on March 24, 1936.

The dog-weary Leafs didn't have time to celebrate. As series winners they had another game to play later the same day—in New York. They proved to be easy pickings for the Rangers in the opening game of the finals, and they never recovered. Bill Cook's overtime marker in the fourth game was the clincher. It gave New York a 1-0 decision on Toronto ice. Cook's play and that of his brother, Bun, and Frank Boucher, three players Conn Smythe had corralled for New York years earlier, proved how sound his judgment of hockey talent had been.

1933-34

Toronto won the Canadian Division of the N.H.L. without much trouble, and Detroit finished on top of the American Division. Charlie Conacher topped the Canadian Division scorers with 32 goals and 20 assists while linemates Joe Primeau and Busher Jackson finished right behind him for a 1-2-3 Leaf sweep. In the Ameri-

can Division it was Frank Boucher of the Rangers at the head of the point-getters' list, followed by Marty Barry of Boston and Cecil Blanton of the Rangers in a tie for second place, with Nels Stewart of Boston one point behind them.

The newly-renamed Detroit Red Wings eliminated the Toronto Maple Leafs in the semi-finals by 3 games to 2. A goal at 11:05 for the first overtime period in the second game, enabled Chicago Black Hawks to squeeze past Canadiens by a total of 4 goals to 3 on the series, and the Maroons edged the Rangers by 2 goals to 1. Then the Black Hawks, beginning to smell their first Stanley Cup, dashed the Maroons' hopes by totaling 6 goals to the Maroons' 2, with Charlie Gardiner of the Hawks chalking up a 3-0 shutout in the first game.

That final series between Chicago and Detroit truly belonged to Charlie Gardiner. Always a great player he was, at thirty, the outstanding netminder in hockey, and had been on every All-Star team since the N.H.L. started naming them in 1931. Only once was he relegated to a second-team berth.

Chicago, which had not won a game in Detroit since February of 1930 scored a 2-1 overtime victory there in the first game, and two nights later won again 4-1. Detroit closed the gap at Chicago by winning 5-2. But, in what proved to be the final game, Mush March of Chicago took a pass from Doc Romnes at 10:05 of the second overtime period and the Hawks clinched their first Stanley Cup with a 1-0 victory.

In eight games of Stanley Cup play, Charlie Gardiner had lost a game, tied one and recorded two shutouts. As a reward his teammates Roger Jenkins wheeled him in a wheelbarrow through the loop section of Chicago. Eight weeks later Gardiner collapsed in Winnipeg, and three days after that, he died of a brain hemorrhage.

But all the events in the 1933-34 season were overshadowed by the dramatic incident which took place in the Boston Garden on December 12, 1933 in a game between the Bruins and the Toronto Maple Leafs. On the morning of the game, a Boston paper ran a story quoting Eddie Shore as saying that, after trying to play gentlemanly hockey during the early part of the schedule, he would return to the rough-and-tumble style which had established him as one of the most feared—and brilliant—defensemen in the league. The story, whether or not it accurately quoted him, was thrown up to him on many occasions later.

The Leafs got away to a one-goal lead in the first period, and then they incurred penalties to Andy Blair and Hap Day almost simultaneously. Coach Dick Irvin promptly iced his penalty-killing unit of defensemen Red Horner and King Clancy and forward Irvin (Ace) Bailey. Bailey was a prolific scorer and two years earlier had finished third in points in the Canadian Division. He and Johnny

Gottselig of the Chicago Black Hawks were rated as the outstanding "puck ragers" in hockey. Both were brilliant stick-handlers and evasive skaters much like the present Chicago center Stan Mikita.

According to Frank Selke, then assistant manager of the Leafs, Bailey won the draw while Toronto was two men short and for a full minute "dodged, twisted and squirmed his way" around the ice, avoiding every effort of the Bruins to gain control of the puck. The referee finally blew his whistle for a face-off, ruling that Bailey was not advancing the puck.

During the break in play, Shore was called to the Boston bench by coach Art Ross, probably to advise him how to check Bailey more effectively. When the action resumed, Bailey again gained possession, again stick-handled for several seconds and then, firing, shot the puck into the Boston end of the rink.

Shore picked it up and made one of his spectacular solo rushes, but as he rounded the Toronto defense he was knocked off balance by Clancy and slid slowly towards the boards. Clancy carried the puck into the Boston end and Bailey dropped back to fill his position beside Horner. Unquestionably upset that no penalty had been called, Shore remained briefly on all fours while Bailey, catching his breath from the exertion of the previous 90 seconds, leaned over with his stick across his knees at the Toronto blue-line.

Shore finally climbed to his feet behind Bailey, and whether he mistook the Toronto forward for Clancy or was attempting to "even up" no one will ever know. But the powerful Shore, sometimes called "The Edmonton Express," worked up a full head of steam, caught Bailey from behind with his shoulder and flipped him high into the air.

The Toronto player crashed to the ice with a sickening thud, and lay motionless with his head sideways as if his neck had been broken. A hush fell over the Boston crowd, as almost everyone realized that Bailey had suffered a serious injury.

Red Horner, after trying to help his teammate, skated to Shore and asked, "Why the hell did you do that, Eddie?"

Shore, who obviously thought that the injury was not of a serious nature, just smiled. Taking this for callousness, Horner hit Shore with a right uppercut and knocked him down. A deep gash was opened in Shore's head when he struck the ice, and a circle of blood, almost three feet in diameter, spread out. Boston players jumped from their bench and advanced on Horner but Charlie Conacher quickly came to his side, and after a brief but hot discussion everyone came to their senses.

Shore recovered fairly rapidly, but for a time doctors despaired of saving Bailey's life. Dr. Kelly, the Boston club physician, entered the Leaf dressing room and a quick look convinced him that Bailey was in critical condition. In his book, *Behind the Cheering*, Frank

Selke quotes Kelly as saying, "If this boy is a Roman Catholic, we should call a priest right away."

Newspapers in the United States and Canada carried daily bulletins on Bailey's condition, many of them using the day-to-day drama on their front pages as specialists in Boston fought to save his life. When he passed the crisis, a wave of relief swept the hockey world. Bailey never played hockey again, but the bitter feeling towards Shore in all the league cities gradually subsided.

An "Ace Bailey Benefit Night" was staged in Maple Leaf Gardens February 14, 1934 between the Leafs and an N.H.L. all-star team, which included Eddie Shore. More than 15,000 fans who had contributed \$20,900 towards a fund established for the athlete whose career had been ended so suddenly, tensed as Bailey, clad in a knee-length brown overcoat, his head bare and wearing dark glasses, walked slowly to center ice.

The players of the two teams were lined up on the blue-line, and when Bailey reached the face-off circle, Shore skated over to greet him with outstretched hand. Bailey did not hesitate; he grasped Shore's hand firmly, and the two embraced each other.

The tremendous crowd relaxed; then it virtually rocked the Gardens with a roar which could not have been matched had the Leafs just won the Stanley Cup. These were the same fans who, just a few weeks before had been demanding that Shore be black-listed from hockey for all time.

Writing in the *Montreal Herald* the next day, Elmer Ferguson reported:

There stood the two main actors in a drama that held a sports world breathless with suspense and fear for days as a gallant athlete fought for life with a tenacity and complete disregard for all the sinister medical precedents that amazed even the expert practitioners.

The roaring crescendo of welcome struck its peak, of course, as the two clasped hands, but throughout the hockey battle that followed, as Shore played a typical rushing, effective game, there was nothing but applause for his movements.

It was a generous, fine and sporting episode in a sporting city's history.

1934-35

Ottawa was through as a member of the N.H.L. The once-mighty Senators gave up the fight to keep big-league hockey in Canada's capital, and the franchise was transferred to St. Louis, together with most of the players. Carl Voss, who had played with Detroit and Ottawa, was to be the leading point-getter, and a "promising youngster" named Bill Cowley came down from Ottawa to try his hand at professional hockey with the Eagles. Another Ottawa player,

Syd Howe, divided the season between St. Louis and Detroit and blossomed into one of the finest players in hockey. He led the American Division in scoring that year with 47 points. His teammate Scotty Bowman scored the first penalty-shot goal in the N.H.L. against Alex Connell of the Maroons. In mid-season Howe and Scotty Bowman were purchased from St. Louis by Detroit for \$50,000.

Tommy Gorman, fresh from coaching the Chicago Black Hawks to a Stanley Cup victory, was hired by the Montreal Maroons and Clem Laughlin took over in Chicago. Another Patrick entered professional hockey when Lester inserted son Lynn into the Rangers line-up. Meanwhile, Frank Patrick became coach of the Bruins, and Art Ross moved into the front office.

The St. Louis Eagles asked Conn Smythe how much he wanted for left-winger Busher Jackson. Without hesitation Smythe said \$100,000. The Eagles didn't call back. Then the Rangers offered \$35,000 plus defenseman Ching Johnston in return for Jackson and Flash Hollett. Smythe said "no" to that deal too.

Hollett, who was an outstanding lacrosse player, had played only two seasons of minor hockey before coming to the N.H.L. When he first tried out with the Leafs, his awkward style drew chuckles from the onlookers. In the weeks that followed, however, his improvement was almost unbelievable, and in 1933-34 he was one of the top young players in hockey.

With the schedule half over, someone suggested that Eddie Shore was finally slowing down for Boston. This remark prompted Ted Reeve, one of Canada's most respected sports columnists to write:

"I cannot play much hockey now,"

Said poor old Eddie Shore,

"My nerves are all upset somehow,
I'm fainting more and more,"

And then he staggered up the ice
To start another score.

It was during this season that observers noticed that the fans were keeping the pucks that went into the crowd. Normally four pucks, frozen before a game to lessen the bounce, had been sufficient for the average game, but with the fans getting the habit of keeping pucks for souvenirs, more and more had to be prepared. Today, three to four dozen pucks are frozen by the home club prior to each N.H.L. game.

Sportswriters and sportscasters had developed some habits too. Hockey writers often referred to the goal area as an "igloo" or a "citadel." Sometimes it was a "cord cottage" or "hempen hut," and more often a "net," "cage," or "twine." The hockey stick was a "cudgel," "war club," "hickory," or "wand." A player didn't shoot the puck. He "rifled" it, "whipped" it, "steamed" it, or "burned" it.

The puck itself was a "disc," a "doughnut," a "rubber," or an "old heel." So when a sportswriter wrote "Old sorrel-top got the thumb from Odie the arbiter," any fan worth his salt knew that Red Horner had been penalized by referee Odie Cleghorn.

The New York Americans unveiled a rookie who turned out to be the outstanding freshman in the League. His name was Dave (Denny) Schriner, and he finished fourth in scoring in the Canadian Division.

Charlie Conacher of the Leafs ran away with the scoring title in the Canadian Division, finishing with 26 goals and 21 assists for 47 points, 13 more than linemate Busher Jackson. Larry Aurie trailed Syd Howe by a single point in the American Division.

Jackson had one game to remember on November 20 in St. Louis. He connected for four goals in the third period to set an N.H.L. record. Years later, in January of 1943, Max Bentley of Chicago matched Jackson's record by scoring four third period goals against New York as the Black Hawks trounced the Rangers 10-1, but the record has never been surpassed.

By 1934-35 it appeared that the Montreal Maroons were going to come out second best in their battle against the Canadiens for fan support. But the Maroons had talent—players like Lionel Conacher, Cy Wentworth, Jimmy Ward, Baldy Northcott, Hooley Smith, Dave Trotter and goalie Alex Connell. They finished second to Toronto in the Canadian Division and defeated Chicago, second-place finishers to Boston in the American Division. In two games with Chicago, there was only one goal scored. That came after 4:02 of overtime in the second game. The Maroons then edged Rangers 5 goals to 4 after the Rangers had ousted the Canadiens.

In the battle of first-place finishers, George Hainsworth of Toronto allowed just 2 goals in four playoff games and the Leafs downed Boston 3 games to 1. The Leafs then met the Maroons in the Stanley Cup finals and hot as Hainsworth was, he was no match for Alex Connell. The Leafs scored only four goals in three encounters, and the Maroons were Stanley Cup champions in three straight games.

With the final game over, the usual ovation descended on the champion Maroons. The biggest cheer went to Connell, who leaned wearily on his net and cried.

1935-36

In 1933, the N.H.L. bought out the St. Louis club and announced that the League would operate as an eight-club circuit. Eighteen of the 23 St. Louis players were distributed to other clubs. One of the best, Bill Cowley, moved on to Boston, where he was to become a great star. Goaltender Bill Beveridge was grabbed by Canadiens, Carl Voss joined Detroit and Joe Lamb went to the Maroons. Voss

later moved on to the New York Americans in a deal with Detroit. The Americans also landed Nels Stewart and Joe Jerwa from Boston.

In Chicago, netminder Lorne Chabot injured his knee, but Clem Loughlin said he wasn't too concerned because a rookie named Mike Karakas, who had been discarded by Detroit, was a real hum-dinger. Karakas, up from Tulsa, became the talk of the League after the season began when he won his first four starts.

The Rangers had some promising youngsters too. They sent Neil and Mac Colville, Alex Shibicky, Phil Watson, Babe Pratt and Eddie Wares to their farm club in Philadelphia for seasoning. All were playing their first year in pro hockey.

In January, Boston purchased Flash Hollett from Toronto for \$11,500, and Chicago traded Howie Morenz to the New York Rangers in return for Gleen Brydson. The Rangers made some mid-season changes too and called up Mac Colville, Alex Shibicky and Babe Pratt from Philadelphia.

For the first time in League history it now became possible to select an all-major, all-American-born team from the ranks of the N.H.L. Here's the way such a team would line up:

Goal: Mike Karakas	Black Hawks... born in Aurora, Minn.
Defense: Art Lesieur	Canadiens " " Fall River, Mass.
Defense: Roger Jenkins	Bruins " " Appleton, Wis.
Defense: Alex Levinsky	Black Hawks... " " Syracuse, N.Y.
Forward: Doc Romnes	Black Hawks... " " White Bear, Minn.
Forward: Carl Voss	Americans " " Chelsea, Mass.
Forward: Cecil Dillon	Rangers " " Toledo, Ohio
Forward: Louis Trudell	Black Hawks... " " Salem, Mass.
Forward: Leroy Goldsworthy	Canadiens " " Two Harbours, Minn.

Only two of the nine American-born players, Karakas and Romnes, had learned their hockey in the United States.

Late in the season Tiny Thompson became the first N.H.L. goalie ever to earn an assist on a scoring play when he passed the puck up to Babe Seibert who scored for Boston. Other goalies had set up scoring plays and Brophy, a netminder for Westmount and Montreal in the Canadian Amateur Hockey League, had actually scored in both 1905 and 1906. However, that was not in the N.H.L.

A rookie who began to show flashes of brilliance late in the season was Hector (Toe) Blake of the Canadiens, but it was another rookie who stole the thunder in the playoffs.

In the first game of the semi-finals, played in Montreal, the Wings and the Maroons battled through 60 minutes of scoreless hockey, and like the Leafs and Bruins of a few seasons earlier, went five overtime periods with neither Lorne Chabot of Maroons nor Normie Smith of Detroit giving away anything.

Finally, at 2:25 A.M., after 176 minutes and 30 seconds of hockey, Modere (Mud) Bruneteau fired a shot from 25 feet out that beat Chabot. Bruneteau had played half a dozen games for Detroit dur-

ing the regular schedule but spent most of that season with the Red Wings' farm team, the Detroit Olympics of the International League. It was the first N.H.L. playoff game in which Bruneteau had ever participated. His name is still in the records as having scored the goal which won the longest game in the history of major-league hockey.

In the semi-finals between Boston and Toronto, the Bruins won the first game of the two-game series 3-0, and the Leafs were on the ropes when they played back on home ice. It was in this game that Eddie Shore lost his temper and the Bruins lost the series.

The Bruins scored first in the second game and led in total goals 4-0. Then Shore was given a penalty by referee Odie Cleghorn. While he was off the Leafs scored twice in less than a minute on goals by Clancy and Conacher.

Shore came back angrier than ever, and when Horner banged in a goal from the crease Shore exploded. He protested that Horner had been in the crease, and he banged his stick on the ice. Then King Clancy sidled up to Shore and said, "You were robbed Eddie. Horner was in the crease. What's more that blankety-blank referee gave you the cheapest kind of penalty before we scored those two early goals. If I were you, I wouldn't take that kind of nonsense from anybody." While he was talking, King placed the puck on Shore's stick.

Shore, fuming, glared at Clancy, then at Cleghorn, and temper won out. He took the puck and fired it at Cleghorn, catching the startled referee in the backside.

Cleghorn whirled around and threw Shore off with a ten-minute misconduct penalty, and from that moment on, the Bruins were lost. Paced by Charlie Conacher, who scored three goals and assisted on a fourth, the Leafs went on to an 8-3 win and took the round by 8 goals to 6.

The New York Americans eliminated Chicago 7 to 5 in total goals, and they in turn were defeated 2 games to 1 by Toronto.

In the battle for the Stanley Cup between Detroit and Toronto, Bucko McDonald scored a goal for the Red Wings and kept the Leafs off balance with his rugged checking, as Detroit won the opener 3-1. Then the Red Wings made a rout of the second game, winning 9-4. The Leafs scored a 4-3 overtime thriller in game number three, but the Wings won their first Cup ever with a 3-2 victory in the fourth game.

After the season, Conn Smythe of the Leafs ran into a tall, scholarly-looking young man in the lobby of the Royal York Hotel in Toronto. His name was Clarence Campbell, and he was a former Rhodes Scholar, a lawyer and a part-time referee in Edmonton.

"Say, young fellow," said Smythe. "Why weren't you carrying a whistle in the N.H.L. this season? I hear you've been doing fine work out west."

"I've never been approached to officiate in your league," replied Campbell.

"Well, take it from me, you will be," was the answer.

1936-37

The Stanley Cup champion Detroit Red Wings have always produced fine goaltenders. Normie Smith played superbly for the Red Wings in the 1935-36 season, and in the fall of 1936 the Wings signed Jimmy Franks. They had two other top prospects in Earl Robertson and Walter (Turk) Broda.

Toronto, unlike Detroit, could never seem to raise a quality goaltender in the Leaf system. They saw Broda play for the Detroit Olympics and learned that either he or Robertson was available for \$8,000. The Leafs chose Broda.

In New York Murray "Muzz" Patrick, son of Lester and brother to Lynn, was thinking of a professional boxing career. As amateur heavy-weight champion of Canada, he had offers to become Manhattan's "white hope" but he soon passed up the offers to sign on with the Rangers.

Before the season Andy Blair of the Leafs was sold to the Black Hawks for \$7,500.

Gordon Drillon, signed by Toronto at the close of the preceding season, was a fine-looking prospect, and a young McMaster University grad, Sylvanus Apps, back from the pole-vaulting event at the Berlin Olympics, also signed with the team.

Joe Primeau announced his retirement and the famous Kid Line was broken up, and in New York another great line disappeared when Bun Cook was sold to Boston.

A once-famous line was restored in Montreal when the Canadiens purchased Howie Morenz from New York and placed him with Aurel Joliat and Johnny Gagnon.

The Bruins themselves were sold that year. Charles Adams sold out to son Weston and Art Ross.

The New York Americans, the second oldest major league club in the United States, came under League control early in the season. Because of financial trouble, the hockey governors declared the Americans' hockey franchise forfeited. They announced that the team would operate with Red Dutton as manager and Frank Calder as team adviser.

Big Bill Dwyer was allowed to retain an interest in the Americans with the League running the organization until such time as he could get back on his feet financially.

Dwyer often dropped \$10,000 to \$20,000 in a single day at the racetrack and when he won \$8,000 in a dice game one night, he gave all of it away in a matter of hours. He tossed parties that cost \$10,000. Old "pals" looking for a handout used to line up outside his house in the morning; none was refused. He lost at least five million dollars in ten years.

The Maroons generously gave Hooley Smith his outright release after nine years of service and the Bruins snapped him up. Smith had been a 19-goal man the year before. The Bruins also obtained Leroy Goldsworthy, a 15-goal scorer with the Canadiens, in return for Babe Seibert and Roger Jenkins.

Suddenly, early in the season, King Clancy retired. On November 24, after 15 seasons in the big time, one of the greatest little game-cocks the game has ever seen called it a day. Clancy was 33 years old, and although he was through as a player, his value to hockey had barely been tapped.

Turk Broda was playing so well for the Leafs that George Hainsworth was sold to the Montreal Canadiens to replace the injured Wilf Cude.

Howie Morenz, delighted to be back in the Montreal Forum, was ablaze on the comeback trail. One night he caught his skate in a rut as he was being checked in the corner. A bone snapped in his leg, and Morenz was through. On March 8, hockey fans everywhere were stunned to hear of the sudden death of Morenz while he was still in hospital. Concerned over the broken leg he'd suffered, and fretful for the future, Morenz's heart had given way. Two days later, 25,000 fans filed past his coffin at center ice in the Montreal Forum. He had scored 270 goals in his brilliant career, the same total as his linemate Aurel Joliat.

It was a year of injuries. Charlie Conacher and Toe Blake were out with broken wrists, Buzz Boll with a broken arm and Larry Aurie with a broken leg. Eddie Shore, with a bad back, was ordered to take a long rest by the team doctor. When the injury continued to trouble him, he was placed temporarily on the retired list.

Russ Blinco (aptly-named) made history by becoming the first National Leaguer to wear spectacles during a game. It brought to mind players of an earlier era, notably Frank McGee of Ottawa, a great scoring star despite blurred vision in one eye, and Leo Reise, another "one-eyed" star performer.

It was one of the finest seasons ever for rookies. The Leafs had Apps, Drillon, Fowler, Hamilton and Davidson. Neil and Mac Colville joined the Rangers, along with Phil Watson and Babe Pratt. Pete Palangio and Hal Jackson were the bright youngsters in Black Hawk colors. Ray Getliffe scored 16 goals for Boston, and a kid named Milt Schmidt began to look like a comer for the Bruins.

Major McLaughlin of Chicago caused a stir late in the season

when the Black Hawks employed five American-born and trained players in an N.H.L. game against the Boston Bruins. It had been the Major's dream to discard his Canadian hockey pros some day, and stock his team completely with American-born athletes. But Boston beat Chicago 6-2 and the newcomers were on the ice for all six goals.

Art Ross of the Bruins was infuriated by McLaughlin's experiment and demanded that Chicago lose its franchise. "It's the most farcical thing ever attempted," he said.

The experiment was short-lived. It was obvious to all who saw them play that the five new Black Hawks could not keep step in the N.H.L.

Sweeney Schriner of the Americans finished with a drive to win his second scoring title in a row, equaling Charlie Conacher's two straight championships.

The Calder Trophy for the best rookie of the year was awarded for the first time, and Syl Apps of the Leafs, who finished a single point behind Schriner in scoring, was the recipient.

The Canadiens edged the Maroons for first place in the Canadian Division by a single point, and Detroit won the American Division. Detroit and the Canadiens split four games in the opening round of the playoffs. The Wings, with Marty Barry, Herbie Lewis and Syd Howe the strong men up front, squeezed the Canadiens out of the picture with a 1-0 overtime win in the deciding game.

The Rangers defeated Toronto two straight and then disposed of the Maroons (who had eliminated the Shore-less Bruins) with a pair of shutouts by Davey Kerr.

In the finals between New York and Detroit, Lynn Patrick scored twice in the opener which was won by New York 5-1. Substitute goaltender Earl Robertson of the Red Wings, filling in for the injured Normie Smith, was brilliant in the second game which went to Detroit 4-2. In the third game, rookie Neil Colville, wearing heavy gear to protect a fractured jaw, scored the only goal as the Rangers won 1-0.

Detroit turned the tables in the next game by the same 1-0 score when Marty Barry, the 31-year-old sharpshooter, scored from an almost impossible angle. Barry scored twice more in the fifth and deciding game, and again Robertson was a standout. The Wings won the series, and in his excitement Jack Adams fainted.

After the series, the Wings kidded the Leafs about their early-season selection of Broda over Robertson, but over the long haul Broda was to prove himself a tremendous bargain.

The Leafs also conducted a post-season drill that year to look over three westerners with an eye to next season. They were Harvey

Barnes, Elmer Lach and Doug Bentley, all from Saskatchewan. After the trial it was decided that while none of the three was pro caliber as yet, they should all make high class senior material for somebody's team.

1937-38

Earl Robertson, the toast of Detroit in April of 1937 when the Red Wings won the Stanley Cup from the Rangers, soon found that heroics in the spring mean nothing in the fall. Norm Smith, the Wings' regular goaltender, was healthy again, and Robertson was sold to the New York Americans. There he was so good that the veteran netminder Roy Worters decided to call it a career.

The Chicago Black Hawks had gone an incredible three seasons without changing coaches until Clem Loughlin handed over the reins to "Bald Bill" Stewart, the National-League-umpire-turned-hockey-referee-turned-coach. Baldy Cotton announced his retirement from pro hockey, and Hap Day, ten years a Leaf leader, was sold to the New York Americans together with Jack Shill.

A rookie named Bryan Hextall was in the Rangers' line-up when the League opened its twentieth season. Erwin (Murph) Chamberlain, a bashing 22-year-old rookie, signed with the Leafs and was later joined by the colorful Bingo Kampman on the Toronto roster. King Clancy was signed as coach of the Montreal Maroons, but his release from the Leafs was contingent on the fact that he not be a playing coach.

A benefit game was played in Montreal in memory of Howie Morenz. About 8,000 fans attended and a large sum of money was turned over to Mrs. Morenz and her two children.

Conn Smythe liked the looks of Lester Patrick's son Lynn and offered Lester \$20,000 for the youngster. Lester said he'd think it over.

After Christmas Syl Apps of the Leafs was named Canada's outstanding athlete in a nation-wide poll. It was the first time in history a hockey player had been so honored. A few days later King Clancy was fired by the Maroons. Then in January, Toronto supporters got a shock when the Leaf team doctor ordered a complete rest for the Big Bomber, Charlie Conacher. Conacher, in fact, was ordered to retire.

In March, Muzz Patrick was called up to the Rangers from Philadelphia. The Rangers were looking for additional strength to challenge the Bruins for first place in the American Division, but the new line in Boston of Bobby Bauer, Milt Schmidt and Woody Dumart was going at a great clip, and Boston won the division by 7 points over Rangers, and 30 over Chicago.

Toronto took the Canadian Division with 57 points, 8 more than the Americans and the Canadiens who tied for second.

The Leafs, with Broda stopping every thrust of the powerful Bruins, eliminated them in three straight playoff games, while the Americans ousted the Rangers 2 games to 1. In the battle of the lowly third-place finishers, Chicago squeezed past the Canadiens 2 games to 1.

Suddenly, the Black Hawks looked around to find they were in the finals. The Leafs were favored in every department when the series began. Mike Karakas tried to fit his broken toe into a skate prior to the first game, but the Chicago goalie couldn't secure a fit. Coach Bill Stewart almost had a fit when he had to find a last-minute substitute. He wanted Dave Kerr of the Rangers, but Conn Smythe said "no" to that request.

After a lengthy search, Alfie Moore, a minor league goaltender who lived in Toronto, was finally located and brought into the Chicago dressing room just before game time. Stewart made no attempt to hide from Moore that he was a last resort. But Moore went out and played the best game of his otherwise undistinguished career, giving up one goal as the Hawks won 3-1. On his way off the ice he thumbed his nose at the Leaf bench.

Back in the Hawks' dressing room Bill Tobin approached the hero of the night and asked him, "How much do we owe you, Alfie?"

Thinking of the highest figure which would still be within bounds, Moore said that he guessed \$150 would be about right. Tobin doubled that amount and slipped Moore \$300.

Moore was taken to Chicago for the third game and awarded a suitably engraved watch in recognition of his services to the Hawks. He did not play again in the series as President Calder ruled him ineligible after the first game. Paul Goodman, property of the Hawks, was pressed into service for the second game, again at the last minute. He could not duplicate Moore's feat, and the Leafs won.

By the third game Karakas' toe was almost back to normal, and the Hawks won on a disputed goal by Doc Romnes with less than five minutes to play. Cully Dahlstrom, Carl Voss, Jack Shill and Mush March connected for the Hawks in the fourth game. Gord Drillon was the only Leaf player to beat Karakas, and the lowly Hawks, who had won only 14 games during the regular schedule, took the Stanley Cup. Bill Stewart, the former baseball umpire, had coached his team to a world championship in his first try as a coach.

The Chicago owners pounded Bill on the back, and told him what a great job he had done.

The next year they fired him.

1938-39

The Montreal Maroons, in distress financially and losers in their long battle with Canadiens for Montreal fan support, were granted the right to suspend operations for one year before the 1938-39 season began. This came after the governors rejected an application by Tommy Gorman to move the club to St. Louis.

The Canadiens made changes. They let go Aurel Joliat, Pit Lepine and Marty Burke and picked up six Maroons. They were Stew Evans, Cy Wentworth, Bob Gracie, Jimmy Ward, Herb Cain and Des Smith. The Black Hawks acquired Baldy Northcott, Earl Robinson and Russ Blinco. These sales really confirmed the reports that the Maroons would never operate again.

The blue lines were widened to 12 inches and the penalty-shot rule changed to allow the player taking the shot to move right into the goal mouth if he so desired. In former years a player taking a penalty shot was forced to shoot from behind a line on the ice and remain behind the line after shooting—a most difficult feat.

Jack Adams of Detroit purchased Charlie Conacher for "a very high sum," believed to be \$16,000. The money was to be paid in three installments and on condition that the 29-year-old Conacher who had been so ill the year before remained in good health.

In the Leaf camp, Don Metz, the leading scorer in the Ontario Hockey Association the year before, was attracting a lot of attention. Sid Abel impressed the Detroit brass with his play; another Conacher, Roy, looked sharp for Boston, and the Bruins sold Leroy Goldsworthy and Art Jackson to the Americans.

On the humorous side, Muzz Patrick and Art Coulter became the first bearded players on record. They let their whiskers grow in order to collect a \$500 wager from Lester Patrick.

Bucko McDonald, benched in Detroit, was purchased by Toronto. Eddie Shore finally signed for the maximum League salary of \$7,000, and Detroit purchased aging (34) Tiny Thompson from Boston for \$15,000. Thompson was replaced in the Bruins nets by a 23-year-old rookie named Frankie Brimsek, called up from Providence. Brimsek showed he belonged by starting off with three straight shutouts. In the first month of play he was beaten only once in ten starts and chalked up six shutouts in seven games.

A number of early-season injuries prompted the newspapers to start demanding "cleaner play."

Cecil Hart, manager of the Canadiens, was asked to resign, but he refused. The club executive gave him a "leave of absence," and Jules Dugal and Babe Seibert stepped in to run the hockey club.

Toe Blake of Canadiens won the scoring crown with 47 points while the sensational Frankie Brimsek won both the Calder and the

Vezina trophies. Boston won the League championship in a walk, outpointing the second-place Rangers 74 to 58.

Mel Hill, rejected by the Rangers a few months earlier, was the Bruins' overtime star in a thrilling series between Boston and New York. Hill, a 10-goal scorer during the regular season, earned the nickname "Sudden-Death" Hill when he scored overtime goals in three playoff games against his old mates. Hill's third game-winner came in the seventh game of the series after 48 minutes of overtime.

Toronto ousted the Americans with 2-0 and 4-0 shutouts while Detroit was eliminating the Canadiens 2 games to 1. Toronto then took Detroit with an overtime victory in the third game of their best-of-three series.

The Leafs were no match for Sudden-Death Hill and the powerful Bruins in the finals. Boston took the series 4 games to 1. The Bruins were delighted with the play of youngsters Milt Schmidt, Bobby Bauer and Woody Dumart who had become one of the most potent lines in hockey. They earned the name "Kraut Line" because of their Germanic background in Kitchener, Ontario. During the Second World War, the name would be changed to the "Kitchener Kids" because things German were not too popular.

THE WAR YEARS AND AFTER

1939-1950

As it did every other segment of North American life, so the Second World War drastically affected the game of hockey. Many great or potentially great careers were at best interrupted or at worst terminated as players enlisted in the armed forces and others were frozen in essential war work and forbidden to cross the border to play. Experts have been arguing ever since as to whether some of the records set in that era would have been established had the caliber of the opposition been finer, yet who could seriously take away from the achievement of the great Rocket Richard in scoring 50 goals in 50 games in 1944-45, or his still standing playoff scoring record of 12 goals in 9 games set in the same year.

No overtime became the rule as a wartime measure to ensure that trains would be caught, and the face of the game changed completely with the institution of the center red line, something that returning players in the postwar era would have to adapt to or pass from the scene.

Unquestionably the war hastened the demise of the staggering New York Americans, the hard-luck team which never once won a Stanley Cup; it also reduced the New York Rangers to such operate straits that Lester Patrick must have bitterly regretted having been dissuaded from his original plan to suspend operations until the end of hostilities. But, with the blessings of the Canadian and American governments which both declared hockey essential to national morale, and the cheers of an ever-increasing number of rabid fans, hockey carried on.

The game lost one of its greatest architects and greatest friends in 1943 with the death of Frank Calder who had been the N.H.L. president since the League's inception in 1917. Hockey was equally fortunate in his successors: the colorful Red Dutton who carried on until 1946 and Clarence Campbell who, on returning from active service overseas, assumed the onerous duties he still discharges so capably today.

The Montreal Canadiens arrested the downward slide which had begun after their last Stanley Cup in 1931 and, under the tutelage of Dick Irvin, began the climb to become the great powerhouse of the Fifties and Sixties. Four times League Champions and twice Stanley Cup winners in the decade, they ended the period with the celebration of their fortieth anniversary in professional hockey.

Hap Day's Toronto Maple Leafs established Stanley Cup records along the way too, notably the greatest comeback in Cup history when they overcame a three game deficit to take the last four games and the Stanley Cup from a courageous Red Wing team; and Hap Day himself achieved the distinction of coaching five Stanley Cup winners in eight seasons.

It was an era of great lines from the Kraut Line of Bauer, Schmidt and Dumart, the Production Line of Abel, Lindsay and Howe, and the powerful Punch Line of Blake, Lach and Richard. Goalie Bill Durnan set a record not to be smashed for a dozen years of 4 Vezina trophies in a row, and Turk Broda, the first Toronto goalie ever to win a Vezina, was fighting the well-publicized "Battle of the Bulge" at the end of the decade. Jock Adams became a true prophet when he declared in 1948 that there was not enough money in the N.H.L. to buy Gordie Howe.

Two gambling scandals hit the N.H.L. in the Forties: first, there was the suspension of Babe Pratt for betting on games, and then the expulsion for life of Billy Taylor and Don Gallinger for similar offenses, although the specific charges against Gallinger have never been made public.

The first Annual All-Star Game was instituted in 1947 and a pension fund for hockey players was instituted in the same year.

And everyone said the mayhem on the ice, which often involved fans as well as players was getting worse than ever.

1939-40

When the Second World War was declared in September, 1939, the National Hockey League was only weeks away from opening its 48-game schedule. Hostilities in Europe had little immediate effect upon the personnel and operating system of the top pros. There were, however, ominous signs that brilliant careers would be disrupted, perhaps even snuffed out forever.

From November to March seven teams, the Chicago Black Hawks, the New York Americans, the Montreal Canadiens, the New York Rangers, the Toronto Maple Leafs, the Boston Bruins and the Detroit Red Wings, competed for the League championship and berths in the Stanley Cup playoffs.

Under the management of Art Ross and the coaching of Cooney Weiland, the well-knit Boston Bruins ended as champions with 67 points, three ahead of the second-place Rangers. They were led

on their march to the top by their famous Kraut Line of Milt Schmidt, Woody Dumart and Bobby Bauer, who made N.H.L. history to copping the first three positions in the League's individual scoring race. Schmidt was the head man with 52 points.

There were other Bruins who contributed to the cause on a magnificent scale: goaltender Frank Brimsek, a man who dealt in shut-outs and was one of the few American-born players in the N.H.L., defenseman Dit Clapper who ultimately starred with the team for a total of twenty years, and Eddie Shore, a scarred warrior who gave limited aid until his trade on January 25, 1940, to the New York Americans for Eddie Wiseman and a reported \$5,000 in cash. In the previous summer Shore had become owner and manager of the Springfield Indians, which made it necessary he play only home and playoff games for the Boston team. Augmenting the scoring punch of the Kraut Line were Bill Cowley, Herb Cain and Roy Conacher.

The playoff system of that era included every team but one. As the team in the cellar the Montreal Canadiens were eliminated from the playoffs while the six top clubs paired off in sequence. Thus, there were five series, ranging alphabetically from A to E.

In Series A, the mighty Bruins were polished off in six games by the second place Rangers who received an automatic bye into the finals. Meanwhile, Toronto and Detroit disposed of their respective first-round opponents, the Black Hawks and the Americans, and then met in Series D, a somewhat bloody encounter which proved that not all wars are fought in foxholes.

This was a best-of-three game series which Toronto won handily through the superb goaltending of Turk Broda, the strong defensive work of Bingo Kampman, Red Horner and Reg Hamilton, plus the picturesque rushes of a blue-line rookie named Wally Stanowski who was so colorful he even had admirers in rival rinks.

The fifth-place Wings had less finesse, fewer stars and a greater quantity of fringe players on their roster. Tiny Thompson was in goal, protected by a rugged defensive quartet of Ebbie Goodfellow (the Hart Trophy winner that year), Jack Stewart, Jimmy Orlando and Alex Motter, a unit which was obviously Detroit's greatest asset.

Except for Syd Howe there were no big scoring guns on the team, and the nearest Wing to Howe in the individual scoring was defenseman Goodfellow who ended in 22nd place. The best attackers Detroit could muster were Eddie Wares, Mud Bruneteau, Don Grosso and newcomer Sid Abel.

When the Leafs ousted the Wings by a 3-1 score in the second game of Series D, the contest was described by a Toronto writer as the "Battle of Petulance." Manager Conn Smythe, always a fiery competitor, announced with a relieved sigh that he was glad to be able to take his team out of the Olympia alive. It was said that the

ghostlike ease with which Pete Langelle wafted past Red Wings was the spark that set off the fistic explosion with less than a minute remaining in the game. Grosso high-sticked Nick Metz and then Apps. Then a dozen fights broke out, with Apps, usually a dignified pacifist, having a two-round bout with Orlando. Horner, possibly the busiest man on the ice, took on Stewart, Orlando, Goodfellow and Motter. He either won or at least drew most of them, but he was completely scuttled by a feminine fan who scrambled to rink-side so she could smack him with her purse, pull his hair and haul his sweater over his eyes.

The brawl lasted fifteen minutes before referee Graham and linesman McFayden could restore order. It was described by Leaf coach Dick Irvin as, "The worst fight I've ever seen," but it provided at least one amusing incident. Toronto forward Pep Kelly, never noted for his pugilistic ability, found himself squared off with Red Wing "Chunky" Brown. Kelly had a solid grip on Brown's sweater and was getting ready to open combat, when he detected a twinkle in his foe's eye. "I can't box," admitted Brown.

"Neither can I," confessed Kelly, "so let's wrestle."

League President Frank Calder decreed that all participants of the deplorable exhibition would be poorer by \$25.

The cake-walk Toronto experienced in the series with Detroit was not repeated against Lester Patrick's Rangers. New York's lineup oozed class all the way from netminder Dave Kerr, to defense of captain Art Coulter, Muzz Patrick, Ott Heller and big Babe Pratt. When Ranger goals were needed they frequently came from the sticks of Neil and Mac Colville, their linemate Alex Shibicky, or from the unit of Phil Watson, Bryan Hextall and Lynn Patrick. If they had an off night there were always Clint Smith, Wilf Hiller and Kilby MacDonald, a 28-year-old who won the Calder Trophy that spring. The Leafs bowed out in six games, three of which went into overtime. It was to be New York's last Stanley Cup victory.

The New York Americans had never won the Stanley Cup nor the League title and consequently qualified as the orphans of the N.H.L. Perhaps because of their plight, the fans had a warm-hearted sort of esteem for them. They were advertised as the rebuilds of 1939-40, though they had other names for them too. The *Toronto Daily Star's* Andy Lytle referred to them as "Red Dutton's graceless Yankees, a team with no social background." They lacked heritage, but certainly not color. They were a team of cast-offs and at one time in 1939-40 had nine players on their roster that no other N.H.L. club even wanted.

Much of the time the Americans were regarded as a soft touch for points, but they were also easy prey in a player deal. Their lack of depth made them glad to give quality for quantity. It was just before the opening of the 1939-40 schedule that they gave up

Sweeney Schriner, possibly the best left-winger then in the League, to the Maple Leafs for Busher Jackson, Jimmy Fowler and Buzz Boll. Because Schriner was recovering from an appendectomy and had lost some poise, both on and off the ice, critics blasted Smythe for a blunder. A year later, when Schriner was converted to center and became a polished leader, it was evident the Americans had lost out on the exchange. In earlier years they had been duped out of Wally Stanowski whose rights they relinquished for an aging Hap Day and, in yet another transaction, they lost promising rookie Terry Reardon.

For the sentimental it was often a sad sight to see the once great Charlie Conacher, who had been optioned to the Americans by Detroit at the start of the season, perform on defense with 17-year veteran Hooley Smith. Upstarts who couldn't have made the grade as a sub for Conacher in his prime were whipping past him as though he wasn't there. Sometimes he showed flashes of his old brilliance. Occasionally, when his temper frayed, his home-town fans in Toronto booed him. Most of the time they were embarrassed to watch their former hero degraded. Busher Jackson was also subjected to the same sort of periodic humiliation.

Though the Montreal Canadiens were the last place team in 1939-40 they lacked the aura of despair which seemed to hang perpetually over the Americans. Canadiens had known the thrill of champagne nights. They had conquered many a foe so they had a reputation to regain.

Tragedy struck the club before the 1939 schedule even opened with the summer drowning of newly-named coach Babe Siebert. His death paved the way for suave Pit Lepine, a retired Canadian star, to assume the coaching duties. Among the players he tried to mold into winners were goalie Claude Bourque, a Maritimer, defensemen Walter Buswell, Red Goupille, Cy Wentworth and Doug Young. There were forwards Ray Getliffe, Charlie Sands, Paul Haynes, Polly Drouin and Louis Trudel. They were led by a chunky, quick-tempered and durable Toe Blake.

The season of 1939-40, the first with guns booming in Europe, was to be the most tranquil of the war years in the N.H.L.

1940-41

On July 19, 1940, the first step in a movement to have pro hockey players volunteer for military training was taken by Conn Smythe. Letters were mailed to all members of the Maple Leaf team urging them to enlist immediately. Shortly afterwards Smythe announced in Ottawa that most members of the team had joined the Toronto Scottish reserve. Meantime, players in other areas were joining the units of their choice.

This was the summer that Dick Irvin resigned as Toronto's coach

to assume the same duties in Montreal, while Hap Day became his successor with the Leafs. Irvin arrived in Montreal in September, 1940 to look over his new team at training camp; a month later he announced he was aiming for a fourth place finish. In the same fall Ebbie Goodfellow was named playing coach of Detroit Red Wings, leaving manager Jack Adams free to attend Detroit's widespread farm system. This was the team Adams later stamped at "the best I've ever seen."

There was a lot of activity on the various N.H.L. fronts. Toronto optioned Murph Chamberlain to Canadiens in May for \$7,500, and he flourished with his new club. Al Murray, a stalwart for the Americans, announced his retirement. In late October the Canadiens dickered with the C.A.H.A. for permission to sign defenseman Ken Reardon and center Johnny Quilty, both aged 19.

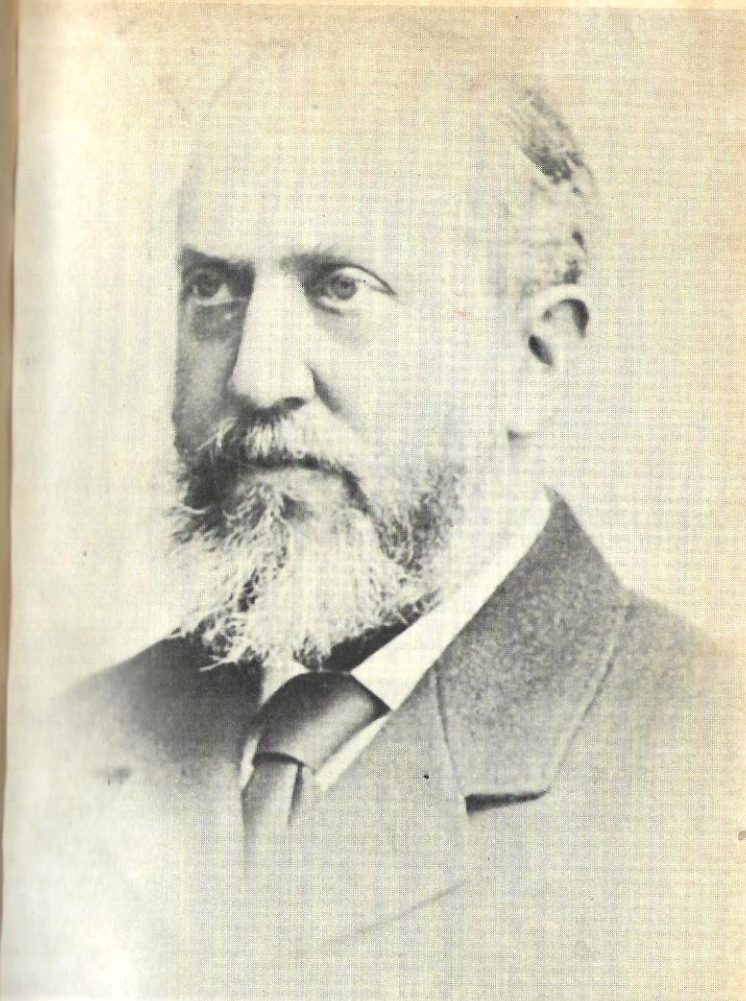
Concerned over the number of serious accidents that had occurred in the past, Toronto coach Hap Day, decreed that all Leaf players would wear special Achilles-tendon guards in practice as well as in League games.

The Canadiens had a large training camp contingent which included thirty amateurs, among them Elmer Lach, Joe Benoit and Bill Durnan. The first two were signed, but Durnan couldn't beat out goalie Bert Gardiner. Young Johnny Quilty had no difficulty making the team but Reardon failed, playing only two games.

The Canadiens missed Irvin's goal of fourth place by 12 points, but were only one point behind fifth-place Chicago who had 39. The two top Montreal point getters were Quilty, with 16 goals and 18 assists, and Benoit who had 16 goals and 16 assists. Quilty became the youngest winner of the Calder Trophy, beating out Johnny Mowers, rookie goalie for Detroit. When asked the pre-season question of who would be the League's top rookie, Irvin had placed Quilty's name in a sealed envelope.

The Boston Bruins, League champions of 1940-41, were dominant throughout the season, though they ended only 5 points ahead of Toronto. With 62 points Bill Cowley was an easy scoring champion. His nearest rivals, Bryan Hextall, Gordie Drillon, Syl Apps, Lynn Patrick and Syd Howe, were all grouped together with 44 points each.

Chicago counted heavily on rookie Johnny Mariucci, a first string end on the University of Minnesota football team who had played defense on the college hockey team. Also in camp were the Bentley brothers, Doug and Max, who had played portions of the preceding season with the Hawks, plus 19-year-old Bill Mosienko who was sent to Providence and then to Kansas City. Mariucci made the team after some seasoning in Providence. Other Hawks of 1940-41 were: Cully Dahlstrom, Mush March, George Allen, Bill and Bob



Hockey Hall of Fame

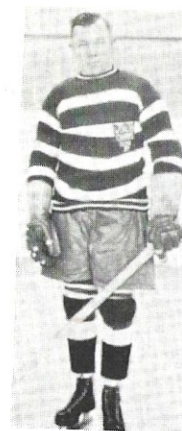
Lord Stanley of Preston, G.C.B. Purchased hockey's most coveted award for £10, or less than \$50. Millions of dollars have been spent trying to win the trophy that still bears his name.



Men and women enjoying hockey or "shinny" on a farm pond in Saskatchewan in 1910. Sticks were made from tree limbs.

Saskatchewan Archives

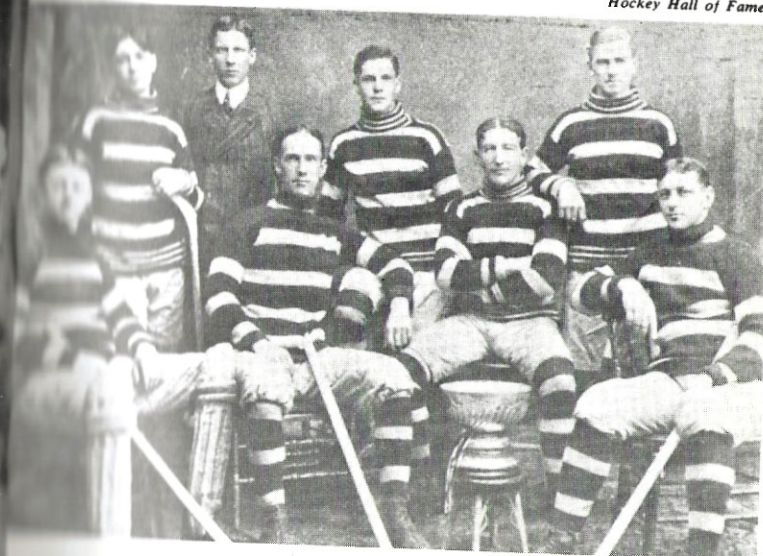
Montreal Amateur Athletic Association—Stanley Cup Champions 1894.
Hockey Hall of Fame



Left: Joe Malone. Scored 44 goals in 22 games. Centre: Harry "Punch" Broadbent. His record of 25 goals in 16 consecutive games still stands. Right: Percy Lesueur. Used same goal stick for five consecutive years.

The Ottawa Silver Seven, a tough, talented team which compiled an amazing record in Stanley Cup play. Frank McGee scored 14 goals in one game against Dawson City in 1905.

Hockey Hall of Fame



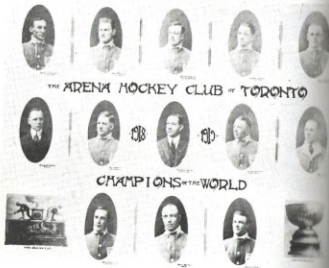


Frank Calder.
President of the
N.H.L. 1917 to 1943.

Mervyn "Red" Dutton
President of the
N.H.L. 1943 to 1946.

Clarence S. Campbell
President of the
N.H.L. from 1946

The Toronto Arenas. First N.H.L. team to win the Stanley Cup. There was no Stanley Cup winner in 1919. The influenza epidemic forced cancellation of the Cup finals and resulted in the death of Joe Hall.



Ottawa holds parade for Stanley Cup Champions 1923.

Reception for 1923 Ottawa Senators at Union Station. T.P. Gorman in center, first manager to win two consecutive Cups, flanked by Eddie Gerard and Frank Nighbor.





*Howie Morenz.
The Stratford Streak.
His amazing career
and tragic death is a
hockey legend.*



*Alex Connell.
Once recorded six
straight shutouts for
Ottawa.*



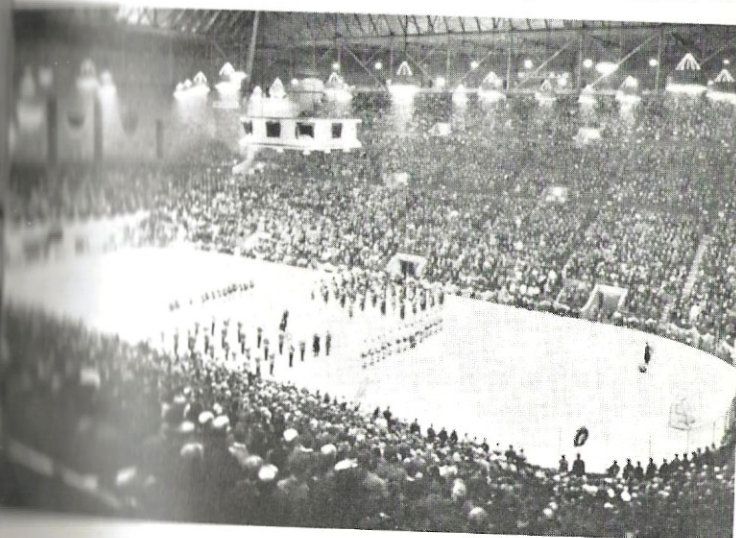
*Lionel Conacher,
Canada's athlete of
the half-century.*

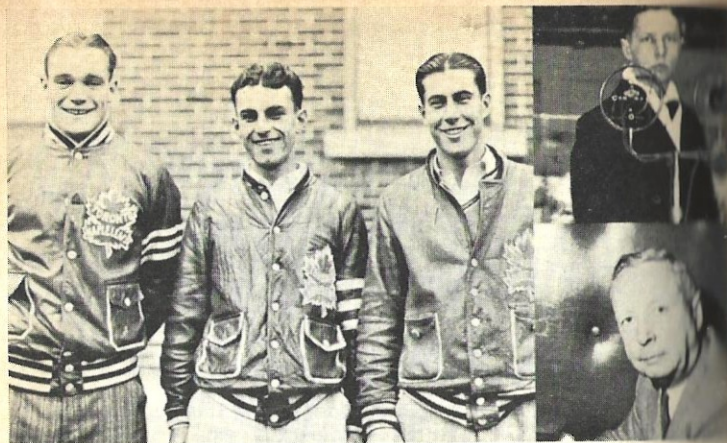
*Boston Bruins. American Division Champions and Stanley Cup winners,
1928-29.*



Site of Maple Leaf Gardens in Toronto before construction of arena.

*Opening night at Maple Leaf Gardens. Nov. 12, 1931. A packed house
watched the Chicago Black Hawks win the first game on Gardens' ice.*





The Leafs' famed Kid Line—Charlie Conacher, Joe Primeau and Harvey "Busher" Jackson.

A youthful Foster Hewitt is M.C. at the Ace Bailey All-Star game in Toronto.

Hewitt today. He has done more for hockey than any other broadcaster for any other sport.

The first Maple leaf team to win the Stanley Cup. 1931-32.



Carse and Bill Thoms, the latter being the only Chicago player among the first 21 scorers.

When Turk Broda won the Vezina Trophy that season, he was sitting in Box 51 of the Boston Garden with some of his teammates watching the Bruins play Detroit. Bill Cowley actually won the trophy for Broda by beating Detroit's Johnny Mowers with two goals in a 4-2 win. This was the first time a Toronto goalkeeper ever won the Vezina Trophy, and when the game ended, the crowd stood up *en masse* and cheered Turk.

The Bruins enjoyed considerable success in 1940-41, establishing two records. Between December 22, 1940, and March 13, 1941, they went 15 games without a loss, getting 6 ties and 9 victories for the longest home undefeated streak (this was later tied by Detroit in 1951). Additionally, between December 22, 1940, and February 25, 1941, they went 23 games without a defeat, getting 15 wins and 8 ties. Rangers stopped the streak by beating them 2-0 in Boston.

Toronto met Boston in Series A of the Stanley Cup semi-finals which went seven games, one of them an overtime contest. Toronto was injury-riddled from the onset of the playoffs, but showed surprising strength. Before the series ended in Boston's favor, Bobby Bauer had sustained a skate wound on the instep, and Bill Cowley twice damaged a knee ligament.

An unheralded hero of the final game was Mell Hill, ordinarily a utility forward who usually served as a right-winger. In this particular game, Art Ross suddenly converted him into a center for the second time in his career and put him between Roy Conacher and Eddie Wiseman. Hill had made a mid-season request for permission to wear glasses on the ice, because he couldn't see the passes his Bruin mates sent his way. His sight was good enough that night to put the puck in a tiny area uncovered by Broda, thus sending the Bruins into the Cup finals.

When they took on Detroit, the Bruins swept to the Cup in four straight games.

1941-42

The N.H.L. which came into being during the First World War, was to celebrate its 25th anniversary on November 22, 1941, under the cloud of a second conflict which greatly changed the League's composition.

On May 26th, speaking for hockey, Conn Smythe protested the new Canadian 20% amusement tax on all sports as injurious to hockey, but by December 24 of that year, the N.H.L.'s gate receipts totaled half a million in 42 games. By September 16, the Toronto manager became Major Smythe, M.C., Officer Commanding 30th Field Battery, 7th Toronto Regiment, R.C.A. In joining the forces for the second time in his life Smythe, then 47, gave up all rights as general manager of the Leafs and Maple Leaf Gardens. E. W.

Bickle became the Gardens' vice-president, and a few weeks later Frank Selke assumed the job of general manager.

When Red Dutton assembled his Americans for what turned out to be their last training camp, Busher Jackson spurned Dutton's contract terms. Jackson became one of the longest holdouts on record; it ended January 5, when he went to Boston in a sale which netted Dutton \$7,500. Earlier Dutton had traded left-winger Lorner Carr to Toronto for Red Heron, Gus Marker, Nick Knott and Johnny O'Flaherty. At the end of the season the Americans would lose Charlie Conacher, who retired.

Art Ross and Lester Patrick engaged in a heated pre-season dispute over the rights to Angus "Scotty" Cameron, a tall center who had played amateur with the New York Rovers. On September 14, Ross walked out on a governors' meeting. A month later he resigned as a League Governor and his colleagues shed no tears when they accepted his resignation. Calder had turned down his official protest and awarded Cameron to the Rangers.

There was considerable confusion surrounding the 1941-42 season and that prompted Toronto writer Ralph Allen to comment: "Expecting this season is like trying to run a hot-dog concession in a cemetery. The only issue of importance is whether Boston will finish first and Toronto second or vice versa." Allen and a lot of others were fooled when the Rangers won the League championship.

This was a season that produced goaltending changes. Dave Kerr, New York's Vezina winner of 1939-40, retired before start of the season at the age of 31. The Rangers replaced him with Winnipeg-born Jim (Sugar Jim) Henry. The Canadiens started out the campaign with Bert Gardiner in goal, but on December 6, Paul Bibeault of the Washington Lions was elevated to Montreal. Bibeault had played in one game against the Leafs the previous season, and that was the only contest the Canadiens had won from Toronto. Sam LoPresti was Chicago's netminder while Mowers, Brimsek and Broda worked for Detroit, Boston and Toronto respectively.

Second-place Toronto met New York in Series A of the playoffs which was a thriller and ultimately won by the Leafs in six games. Once Toronto had registered their third win in four games, Frank Boucher observed: "They used two goaltenders against us and they were too much." He was referring to the remarkable defensive display given by Bucko McDonald. A combination of Nick Metz and Gordie Drillon (a standout in the series) actually eliminated New York in the sixth game when Drillon's decoy play set up the 3-2 victory.

Before the Leafs took on fifth-place Detroit in the Cup finals, an unidentified Toronto representative remarked: "It's a shame that two great clubs as Rangers and Leafs should be beating their brains

out in this semi-final round in order to go up against Boston or Detroit who don't belong in the same category."

The Wings, with a line-up that appeared decidedly mediocre compared to Toronto, swamped the Leafs in the first three games by scores of 3-2, 4-2, and 5-2. It was public knowledge before the fourth game that Hap Day would make drastic changes, but few were prepared for the benching of Drillon and McDonald who had played so well against the Rangers. McDonald's successor was rookie Bob Goldham while Don Metz took Drillon's berth, Metz scored three goals that night, and Toronto won 4-3.

Following that win with 9-3 and 3-0 victories the Leafs paved the way for a sensational seventh game which saw the Wings panic and make player changes. It was on the night of April 18, 1942, that Toronto won the Cup from the courageous fifth-place club. Described as the wildest Stanley Cup series on record, the last game was played in Toronto before 16,218 fans, the largest Canadian gathering yet for a hockey game. Veteran Sweeney Schriner led the Leafs to the Cup with two goals in a 3-1 win. This series marked a record for a comeback in Stanley Cup competition—one that has never been duplicated.

1942-43

By the early weeks of this new season, the N.H.L. had lost ninety of its players to the armed forces, regular or reserve, but with the blessing of the Canadian and United States governments which decreed the game essential to national morale, professional hockey carried on.

This was to be a season which would produce controversy, bitter feelings, tragedy and, occasionally, an all-for-one unity.

The first unpleasantness came in late October when an apprehensive Red Dutton attended a meeting of the League Governors knowing his Brooklyn Americans would likely be invited to leave the League, partly because their lease with Madison Square Garden would soon expire. The Americans, always weak, would be weaker still with players lost to the services, argued the governors. Dutton contended that that would be compensated for by the similar weakening of the six other clubs. At that point his club was politely assassinated.

In November, League President Frank Calder announced the abolition of overtime in scheduled games so that teams would be sure to catch their trains without delay. Johnny Gottselig of Chicago, who sometimes served as playing coach for Paul Thompson, was one who hailed the move as an astute change. "It took a war to do it, but thanks to it, the tempo of hockey will be a great deal faster than it was," he commented.

Art Ross, who managed the Boston Bruins had for some time been agitating for a sharp reduction in the player roster. But when

the governors met in Boston for a League meeting, Ross was conspicuously absent even though they were discussing his favorite topic. He had been at loggerheads with Frank Calder and sent his solicitor as his representative. Ross had fought for the squads to be cut to thirteen players; the decision was to pare down to fourteen players including the goaltender. No team needed to have more than twelve men in uniform before a game.

Not all the changes in the N.H.L. were induced by the war. One, at least, had been in the offing since the spring of 1942 when the Leafs had benched Gordie Drillon for the last four games of the Stanley Cup finals. No one was surprised when Drillon was sent to Montreal in October for cash. For Drillon, it meant going back to his old coach, ex-Leaf mentor Dick Irvin, and an escape from the heckling he was conditioned to accepting from Toronto fans. "I once led the League in scoring for Dick, and I think I can do it again," he predicted. That he did not do, but he did pick up 28 goals and 22 assists.

The season of 1942-43 was the start of an upsurge for the Montreal Canadiens that was to make them one of the flashiest and most powerful teams in the N.H.L. The Canadiens finished fourth at the end of the season and were to be the title holders for the next four, twice winning the Stanley Cup.

The N.H.L. race of that year was a continual nip-and-tuck battle with the playoff berths undecided until the final game of the schedule. The exciting race bore out the pre-season prediction of Toronto writer Ted Reeve who had written: "In some respects this will be one of the most entertaining seasons in N.H.L. history. Things couldn't be more uncertain if they were going through the schedule on roller skates."

Detroit not only won the League title but the Stanley Cup as well. Most of their strength was defensive, since only Syd Howe was among the top dozen scorers. Johnny Mowers became the Vezina Trophy winner with only 124 goals against him.

Toronto, with Hap Day at the helm, pulled themselves together from a wobbly start which saw Syl Apps temporarily demoralized without his old partner Drillon. Then things went worse for Toronto when Apps sailed into a goal post in Maple Leaf Gardens one January night and fractured his right leg. He was out for the balance of the season.

Continuing to hold the Leafs together were Turk Broda, a defense of Reg Hamilton, Babe Pratt, Jack Forsey and Bucko McDonald. Forwards Carr, Schirner, Taylor, Davidson, Kennedy, Poile and Stewart were later joined by youngsters named Jackie McLean and Jackie Hamilton. Gaye Stewart was an easy winner of the Calder Trophy with 21 of the 27 voting writers giving him first-place votes, and Montreal's Glen Harmon ranked second.

Harmon, who was frozen in his job as a full-time war industry worker, was the first N.H.L. player to double in two occupations. He pulled the Canadian defense together, sent the team on a winning streak and was credited with helping them make the playoffs.

In that season Irvin introduced a trio he called the "Punch Line," which was comprised of Toe Blake, Elmer Lach and Joe Benoit, a right-winger from Trail, B.C. In an earlier game he had introduced a newcomer named Maurice Richard who played in only 16 games before being injured. (In 1967 Frank Selke Jr. revealed that Montreal tried to trade Maurice Richard to New York during his rookie year in return for Phil Watson, but the deal fell through.)

The Bentley brothers, Max and Doug, dominated the League scoring with Doug winning the championship. On January 26, the Hawks trounced the floundering Rangers 10-1 with the Bentleys and Bill Thoms collecting 18 points as a unit, 13 of them going to the brothers. Max tied the N.H.L. record of seven points in one game when he got 4 goals and 3 assists. The record was tied again on November 5, when the Red Wings defeated Rangers 12-5, with Carl Liscombe getting seven points.

For Bill Cowley, who had been the scoring champion and winner of the Hart Trophy in 1940-41, the season of 1942-43 was almost as rewarding. While he failed to topple his own 1940-41 record of 43 assists he duplicated it. Cowley, with nine N.H.L. seasons behind him, eight of them with Boston, was anxious to make this his best year because he thought that another year of war might send him into government service with the navy in Ottawa. The existing brand of hockey was not particularly appealing to Cowley who preferred the game of a few years back. "I must be getting old," he commented, "This forechecking has developed an entirely new slam-bang game. We do a game now with only 12 or 15 shots on a club like Detroit when we used to have that many in a period. It's getting tougher to dump goal-mouth passes to teammates. The traffic is so heavy you wind up scoring yourself, like I'm doing."

Back in October bulletins from Toronto's training camp had said great things about Dudley "Red" Garrett, a young defenseman with such flair and promise that coach Day branded him a second Red Horner, while Bun Cook, then coach of Providence, said: "He stands out like a sore thumb." In late November Garrett's usefulness to Toronto became apparent. He was dealt off to Rangers, along with Hank Goldup, in exchange for defenseman Babe Pratt, a 27-year-old who had been with New York all of his N.H.L. career. Toronto, recognizing Garrett's potential, made a postwar proviso to get back his contract.

Pratt, noted for his relaxed attitude and sense of humor, was well received by Leaf players. Once, when the team's status was being challenged after several losses, he looked at the sign in the Leaf

dressing room which reads: "Defeat does not rest lightly on their shoulders." Babe commented, "What I'd like to know is who put it there?" Trainer Tim Daly piped up, "Well, you don't seem to be worrying about defeat, arriving half an hour late for practice." Wagging his finger at the slogan, Pratt replied, "Tim, defeat was resting so heavily on my shoulders, I became so weary I slept in."

In late January, Frank Calder was heading a meeting of the governors in Toronto when Hap Day noticed that Calder was in pain. As two or three governors moved to his assistance, he assured them he was all right. Then he rose to his feet, and exclaimed, "My God, there is something wrong." In a short time it was announced he had suffered a heart attack. Red Dutton, en route to Montreal at the time, was appointed president *pro tem* with the blessing of Art Ross who suggested that Lester Patrick and Ed Bickle act as his advisers. So Dutton became head man of the League he had been kicked out of only months earlier. It is doubtful if he accepted the post for any reason other than his long-standing and deep friendship with Calder. When Dutton had been manager of the Americans, Calder had been president of the club as well as president of the League.

A far-sighted man, Calder had confided years earlier to his associates that he was grooming Clarence Campbell to succeed him as N.H.L. president, a job then paying an approximate \$12,00 per year. That soon became public knowledge, but at the time Calder was stricken, Campbell was overseas. Less than two weeks after the heart attack, Calder died.

Detroit eliminated Toronto 4 games to 2 in one semi-final series while the Boston Bruins ousted the Montreal Canadiens 4 games to 1.

Then the Red Wings, paced by the scoring of Carl Liscombe and Sid Abel, took the Boston Bruins four straight in the finals. Johnny Mowers shut out the Bruins in the last two games.

1943-44

By now the war had ravaged the N.H.L. teams until some of them were mere ghosts of what they had once been. Teams jockeyed for players and wangled deals to get service rejects and teen-agers. Not many people indulged in pre-season predictions, although Art Ross said the race for the top would be strictly between his Boston Bruins and the Detroit Red Wings.

The Rangers were so hard hit that they made it known in October that they would like to fold for the duration of the war. But Lester Patrick, against his better judgment, was persuaded to ice a team.

Goaltending was the major problem for the Canadiens. Regular netminder Paul Bibeault had joined the army in the preceding summer. They had called up Bert Gardiner, who had been on loan to

Chicago, and also had in camp Bill Durnan of the Quebec Hockey League's senior Montreal Royals, and 17-year-old Gerry McNeil of the junior Quebec Aces. The Canadiens started training later than any of their rivals, completing the task in ten days. They held practice drills at night to enable war workers on the roster to take part.

Despite their loss of personnel, the Leafs had gone to camp with a promising assortment of players. Veteran Bob Davidson had been appointed captain in Syl Apps' absence and he headed a contingent of pros which included All-Star right-winger Lorne Carr, Bucko McDonald, Ted Kennedy, Don Webster, Jack Ingoldsby, Jackie McLean and Jackie Hamilton. Goalie Turk Broda was about to enter either the navy or the army. Oddly enough, the chief contender as his replacement was 35-year-old Benny Grant who had first attempted to become Toronto's goalie 15 years earlier in 1928.

Because of the scarcity of players, the N.H.L. clubs developed their own ruthless method of gaining recruits. Boston entered into a squabble with Montreal over the services of netminder Bert Gardiner with Art Ross winning the battle. Meantime, Phil Watson of the Rangers was frozen in an essential war job in Montreal and was refused permission to play hockey in New York. Several teams sparred for Watson's services, but the dickering ended when the Canadiens offered Dutch Hiller and Charlie Sands to the Rangers in a type of lend-lease exchange.

The fact that New York won only 6 games out of the entire 50-game schedule of 1943-44 and had a whopping 310 goals scored on their porous defense indicated Patrick's wisdom in wishing to fold temporarily. When the Rangers opened the season in Toronto in late October, they had only five hold-overs from their team of the preceding season. They were Ott Heller, Bryan Hextall, Grant Warwick, Bill Gooden and Gord Davidson. For the third consecutive year they introduced a new goalie, this time rookie Ken McAuley. Some of Patrick's desperation was showing when coach Boucher sent out a 145-pound center, rookie Don Raleigh, who was only 17 years old and far out of his depth against the more experienced Toronto players. An 8-3 lacing from the Red Wings one night later prompted their coach, 42-year-old Frank Boucher, to announce comeback plans. "I have worked hard since training camp, and I believe I can help the young fellows," he said. "But a fellow doesn't want to make a fool of himself," he added, knowing he might fail and cast a shadow over a great record of 17 major seasons, 12 of them with the Rangers as center for Bill and Bun Cook.

On November 7, the Rangers met the Black Hawks in New York to open their season before their home fans. A sell-out crowd, many of whom had not seen Boucher play before his retirement years

earlier, gave him a fine ovation. Boucher was back in his old center ice position with a couple of wingers who were babies when he began his pro career. He set up one goal and scored another. But Chicago won 4-3. Boucher's return lasted for 15 games and produced 4 goals and 10 assists. True to his reputation as a perpetual winner of the Lady Byng Trophy, he was assessed only one minor penalty.

In 1943-44, the center red line was introduced to hockey, along with a new face-off rule. Both were received with mixed feelings, perhaps because the unpopular Art Ross had a hand in the changes. Frank Selke was quoted as saying: "Art Ross writes the rules and then lies awake nights figuring ways to circumvent them. It is an old Russian custom and I, for one, am sick of it. The N.H.L. is following Ross like sheep jumping through a gate. The red line has turned hockey into a farce." Yet, despite the criticism, more people paid to watch the games than in any other comparable period in N.H.L. history.

The gag rule, also a wartime inspiration, was given its initiation in 1943-44 and was hailed with hilarity, annoyance and disdain. Montreal writer Dink Carroll said: "What the new rule does is reduce players to the status of serfs. The effect of the rule is to strike them completely dumb, and hockey players on the whole are already the mutest of the athletes. Why isn't the rule enlarged to protect players from vitriolic officials?"

An N.H.L. record toppled on January 8, 1944. Babe Pratt came up with six assists as the Leafs whipped the Bruins 12-3. Then, on February 3, 1944, Syd Howe, a veteran Red Wing, scored six goals as Detroit humiliated New York 12-2 in the Olympia. Howe's feat smashed a record of five goals set in 1917 by Harry Hyland of the Montreal Wanderers and equaled eight times by such notables as Howie Morenz, Charlie Conacher, Pit Lepine and Ray Getliffe. This splurge of goals came just two weeks after the Wings had overpowered Rangers 15-0. Despite a plea for help from Lester Patrick there was nothing New York could do but play out the schedule and end hopelessly mired in last place with 17 points.

Detroit which ended in second place with 58 points started out the season with Jimmy Franks in goal and built around him with Cully Simon, Pat Egan, Harold Jackson, Joe Carveth, Mud Bruneteau, Syd Howe and Don Grosso.

On January 5, 1944, Adams pulled off a deal with Art Ross which sent Egan to Boston for Flash Hollett. Hollett balked on the grounds that he'd been a Bostonian nine years and didn't want to play in any other N.H.L. city. He eventually capitulated, and by the time the Wings had demolished the Rangers, he was Detroit's team captain. Adams credited the Wings' surge to the acquisition of

Hollett, goalie Connie Dion and veteran center Murray Armstrong who had improved the play of Adam Brown.

A quiet surprise was the showing of the Montreal Canadiens who went 14 games before being defeated in November by the Bruins. Bill Durnan, 29 and untried, got the season's first shutout, allowing only one goal in weekend games against Detroit. Adams claimed Durnan was not only a standout goalie during this season, but compared with the pre-war best.

Durnan's job was made easier by the defensive play of Leo Lamoureux, Butch Bouchard, Glen Harmon and Mike McMahon. Up front, Blake, Lach, Richard, Filion, Getliffe, Chamberlain, O'Connor, Majeau and Heffernan kept up enough pressure on the opposition to lead the team to the N.H.L. title with 83 points and a total of 234 goals. Phil Watson's value couldn't be underrated, even if some of it came from his impish humor. One one occasion during a game in the Forum, Watson looked up at the scoreboard which read: Toronto 5, Rangers 2, and remarked, "Poor old Rangers, they sure miss Watson."

Canadiens won the League title on February 27, for the first time since 1931, and when the schedule ended on March 19, Montreal, Detroit, Toronto and Chicago were in the playoffs. Herb Cain of Boston was the scoring champion and Bill Durnan the Vezina winner. Durnan lost the Calder Trophy to Gus Bodnar, who with 63 points, set a record for points by a rookie, and another by scoring the fastest goal by a rookie (after 15 seconds of play in his first game). In the first game of the Leaf-Canadien series the weakest Leaf contingent iced in years, won 3-1, handing Montreal their first home-ice loss all season. Paul Bibeault, picked up in mid-season by Toronto, was sensational as the Canadiens outshot the Leafs 61 to 23.

The second game, played March 23, was a 5-1 victory for Montreal with Maurice Richard getting all 5 goals and all of the post-game "Three Stars." The Canadiens won the next two games in Toronto, and when the series went back to Montreal for what turned out to be the final game, they swamped the Leafs 11-0. The rout was a record for modern Stanley Cup play.

Chicago offered almost no opposition to Canadiens who swept to the Stanley Cup in four straight games. They had suffered only five defeats in the entire season. Richard established an all-time scoring record in Stanley Cup play with 12 goals in 9 games.

1944-45

Early in the season, Red Dutton, still acting as N.H.L. President, offered to resign, but was dissuaded by the League governors. A number of candidates had been nominated for the job which now

paid \$15,000 instead of the \$12,000 earned by the late Frank Calder.

Except for the absence of Mike McMahon, Gerry Heffernan and Phil Watson (Watson went back to the Rangers), the line-up of the Canadiens was relatively unchanged from the previous season. Paul Bibeault, still legally the Canadiens' property, was recalled from Toronto. The Leafs dickered with Montreal over Bibeault's series, but their offer to buy was declined. They ended up using rookie Frank McCool. The Leaf defense included Babe Pratt, Pete Backor, Reg Hamilton, Elwyn Morris and Ross Johnstone.

The Detroit Red Wings were introducing three newcomers, Ted Lindsay, Jud McAtee and Steve Wochy. Connie Dion, the smallest goalie since Roy Worters performed, started out the season, but was replaced by Normie Smith, and in mid-December rookie Harry Lumley was promoted from Indianapolis.

The New York Rangers had more fire in their 1944-45 play, but not much more success. They went the entire campaign without the aid of Bryan Hextall. The Saskatchewan War Mobilization Committee refused to allow him to leave Canada because he was claiming exemption as a farmer. This ruling also affected Doug Bentley and George Allen.

In late December Boston had won only eight games and Art Ross, Sr. termed his Bruins as: "The worst team I ever saw."

Paul Thompson's Black Hawks ended the season just one point ahead of the last-place Rangers. With Mike Karakas in goal and an assortment of veteran and fringe players they had little success. Early in January, 1945, Chicago sent Earl Seibert to Detroit for Cully Simon, Don Grosso and Butch McDonald.

Late in January the Gardens welcomed Conn Smythe back to his old job. He had been seriously wounded overseas and was now out of the army. He said that he would concentrate for a time on League rather than club matters. A week later Smythe visited Montreal and commented on Maurice Richard: "He looks like Morenz from the blue-line in." On December 28, the Rocket collected five goals and three assists to set a new record of 8 points when Canadiens beat Detroit 9-1 in Montreal. The old mark of seven points in a game had been set by Don Grosso when he got one goal and six assists in a 12-2 Detroit romp over the Rangers on February 3, 1944. Richard went on to set another remarkable scoring record by becoming the first player to score 50 goals in one season. This feat was accomplished in a 50-game schedule. His linemate, Elmer Lach, became the League scoring champion that year with 80 points—26 goals and 54 assists.

On December 17, Major Frederic McLaughlin, former president of the Black Hawks and the man who gave them their name, died

of heart disease at the age of 67. Ownership of the team went to his 16-year-old son William.

When the schedule ended on March 19, Canadiens were champions with 80 points, far ahead of Detroit and Toronto. Bill Durnan was an easy winner of the Vezina Trophy. Rookie Frank McCool, who starred for the Leafs, was his nearest rival. Montreal's Punch Line of Richard, Lach and Blake duplicated the feat of the Kraut Line, finishing one, two and three in scoring.

The third-place Leafs seemed no match for the Canadiens in the semi-finals, but in the first game, Ted Kennedy golfed a shot that resulted in a 1-0 Leaf win. Toronto won the second game 3-2. The Canadiens then took a 4-1 decision, lost the fourth game 4-3, but came back with a decisive 10-3 victory in the fifth on Forum ice led by Richard's three goals. The spine-tingling sixth game went to the Leafs by a 3-2 score. "Those last two minutes seemed like a lifetime," sighed Hap Day. In the meantime, the Bruins surprised Art Ross by forcing the Red Wings to seven games before being eliminated in the semi-final round.

During the schedule the Wings had beaten the Leafs in eight out of ten games. This Detroit aggregation, the highest scoring group in team history, was shocked when they lost the Stanley Cup in five games while suffering three consecutive shutouts. It marked the first time in club history that the team had been shut out on consecutive occasions.

Toronto won the first game 1-0 Sweeney Schriner's goal and also picked up the only penalties—a minor to Hill and a major to Carr, the first of his N.H.L. career. The second game, a 2-0 victory, was highlighted by McCool's superlative goaltending. Game three, won 1-0 on Bodnar's goal, was McCool's third shutout and gave him an all-time Stanley Cup netminding record.

1945-46

With players returning to the N.H.L. at a rapid rate, the 1945-46 season was one of the most interesting campaigns since the war weakened the caliber of play. The players filtered back all through the season. Syl Apps and the Kraut Line got back in the fall while Frank Brimsek was still aboard a U.S. ship in Tokyo Bay. Bob Carse, originally missing in action, then a prisoner of war, took time off to recover from his experiences. On one location in England there were 15 players. All but Johnny Quilty were 28 years of age and concerned because they might miss still another season of hockey. For all of them the red line was still an innovation to which they would have to adapt.

With an abundance of goalies in the N.H.L. where previously there had been a scarcity, Lester Patrick's announcement that he was considering using two netminders drew interest and mild

amusement. (Patrick had at least three goalies at his disposal, while the Leafs had four and the Canadiens owned at least nine.) By early November, Frank Boucher was rotating Charlie Rayner and Sugar Jim Henry. Three seasons earlier he had predicted a hockey system that would see the substitution of goalies during a game, much in the manner of changing forwards or defensemen. Very few people saw wisdom in his theory. Hap Day for one, didn't see the need for it. "Goaltenders are seldom overworked," said Day. "They handle 25 to 30 shots a game. Forwards and defensemen have to be shifted more frequently because of the increased tempo of our game, but not goaltenders." Boucher termed the 1945-46 brand of hockey "Americanized," meaning it was played under the same hectic, speedy conditions which Americans are said to live.

Despite a solid basic team, the Leafs for the first time in 16 years failed to get into the Stanley Cup playoffs. Broda, McCool and Gordie Bell each had a turn in goal and Conn Smythe fingered a weak defense as the chief cause of failure. But he foresaw no improvement before 1948. "At the moment the only Leafs in the minors who impress me are Jim Thomson, Gus Mortson and Joe Klukay," he commented.

Frank McCool returned to his Calgary home by November 1 after a salary conflict. He reportedly asked for \$5,000 and was offered \$500 less. The Toronto management indicated he had left because of a bad case of ulcers. Terms were reached before the season ended, but it was McCool's last campaign in the N.H.L. It was also the last season for Sweeney Scriner and Lorne Carr, both of whom hit the 200-goal mark that year.

The news that rocked the N.H.L. in 1945-56 was the expulsion on January 29 of Toronto's Babe Pratt on the grounds of wagering on games. There was no evidence that Pratt had bet against his own team, but he had violated the rules against gambling. He also admitted to President Dutton that an unsuccessful attempt had been made to bribe him to throw a game. Pratt, who was then 30, was reinstated of February 14, after a 16-game suspension, when the League governors responded to Dutton's appeal for leniency.

In February, 1945, Lester Patrick, 62, retired as manager of the Rangers, and Frank Boucher, his star pupil, succeeded him. Squashing rumors that he would assume the position of League president, Patrick, who was in ill health, said, "Why should I quit the Rangers and go into something ten times tougher?"

Even with an improved roster the Rangers finished last. Their highest point getter was Ab DeMarco who finished seventh in the scoring race. Bryan Hextall had been forced to miss the entire season due to a liver complaint, and defenseman Muzz Patrick, hampered by a knee injury, played only 24 games and retired.

Affluence hit the N.H.L. in 1945-46 when the players shared the

richest pool in League history. Dutton revealed that the players would share in a maximum pool of \$90,000 out of the regular schedule, the semi-finals and finals. Previously, the all-time high had been \$60,000.

The Canadiens finished on top of the regular schedule with 61 points. With Max Bentley winning the scoring championship (nine points ahead of the Leafs' Gaye Stewart whose 37 goals was tops in the League), the Black Hawks squeezed into third place—three points behind Boston and three ahead of Detroit. The semi-final round of the playoffs between Montreal and Chicago was almost uneventful with the Canadiens winning in four straight games. Series "B" between Boston and Detroit went five games before the Bruins won.

The finals, which went five games, three of them into overtime, were lively and hard fought. Boston, with Brimsek back in goal, Bibeault (obtained from Canadiens) to back him up, and a line-up that included Johnny Crawford, Bep Guidolin, Don Gallinger, Terry Reardon, Pat Egan and Herb Cain, offered stiff resistance. The first game was won by Canadiens 4-3 on a spectacular goal by Richard in overtime.

Game number two was a repeat of the first, except that Montreal's Jimmy Peters got the overtime winner and the score was 3-2. The Bruins blew a fine chance to draw the series closer in the third game when they played a badly-crippled Canadian club. Bouchard left the game with a knee injury after three minutes of play; Toe Blake was sidelined with a recurring back injury early in the third period; Harmon played with a bad wrist and Chamberlain was handicapped with injured ribs. Canadiens still won 4-3.

Boston finally won an overtime contest when Terry Reardon scored after each side had missed at least five wide-open chances. But Montreal completely overpowered Boston in the fifth and final game, winning 6-3. It was Toe Blake who scored the winner and Elmer Lach who spearheaded the attacks by the Punch Line.

1946-47

The accent was on youth in 1946-47, with most teams trying to blend their veterans with newcomers.

Detroit disposed of Mud Bruneteau, Syd Howe, Carl Liscombe and Joe Carveth. They attempted to trade Flash Hollett to the Rangers for Hank Goldup and Ab DeMarco, but Hollett elected to retire. Detroit acquired Roy Conacher from Boston in a swap for Carveth, and they sent Harry Watson to Toronto for Billy Taylor. Rookie Gordie Howe was also inserted into the Detroit line-up.

The Leafs made some drastic changes. Babe Pratt, their highest-paid player in 1944-45, was sent to Boston. Harry Watson was

eyed as a potential defenseman, until Gus Mortson and Jim Thomson grabbed blue-line jobs. This was also the first N.H.L. season for Bill Barilko, Howie Meeker and Vic Lynn.

Chicago's youth movement provided quantity, but not results. Consequently, they ended in the cellar. They sold Don Grosso to Boston and traded George Allen to the Canadiens for Paul Bibeault which enabled them to ask waivers on Mike Karakas. They promoted Bill Gadsby, Frank Ashworth and Ralph Nattrass. Emile Francis, 19, was signed with 19 games remaining in the schedule.

Even Dick Irvin made changes in his Cup-holding Canadiens, adding Roger Leger, Leo Gravelle and George Allen. Irvin was reunited with Frank Selke, who at 53, assumed the Montreal managerial post on July 10, 1946, a week after the resignation of Tommy Gorman.

The Bruins were inclined to spurn youth for experience. They plugged a defensive gap with Pratt, made Bobby Bauer captain he reversed his autumn decision to retire, and got top efforts from Crawford, Henderson, Guidolin, Egan, Brimsek and teh Kraut Line, Herb Cain, the N.H.L.'s top scorer in 1943-44, went to the minors.

In New York, Frank Boucher welcomed back Bryan Hextall who had been absent all the preceding season. New York had a youthful unit in Rene Trudel, Church Russell and Cal Gardner, and Boucher was about to get his first full season from defenseman Hal Laycoe.

On September 4, 1946, Clarence Campbell, 41, succeeded Red Dutton as N.H.L. President. A former referee, Campbell had just returned from overseas where he had risen to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in the Canadian Army.

It was in 1946-47 that plans were laid for the annual All-Star game, the first of which was to be played in the fall of 1947. Considerable discussion began among individual clubs on plans to establish a pension fund for N.H.L. players which became effective Oct. 1, 1947.

In September, 1946, it was decided that money, along with honor, should go to the players who captured the various N.H.L. trophies. The governors decided to make an annual grant of \$1,000 to go with each award. Provisions were made to make the All-Star team an official one. Coaches of N.H.L. teams were to do the voting, and no coach could vote for any of his own players. Each player gaining a place on the first team was to be awarded \$1,000 and allowed to wear a star on his arm. Another change was made in early March when the Board of Directors boosted the seasonal prize money total, including the regular season pool and the Stanley Cup playoff pool, to a record \$127,000. Rules regarding the Calder Trophy for the League's outstanding newcomer were changed to recognize players who participated in 20 games or less in the pre-

vious season. Previously, men who participated in three or more games were ineligible.

Overhadowed by the point-for-point stretch drive of Max Bentley and Maurice Richard, with the Chicago forward winning out by a single point, was the surprising and steady climb of Detroit's Billy Taylor. He finished third in the scoring race only eight points behind Richard. On March 16, 1947, Taylor ran wild in a 10-6 win over Chicago and collected seven assists which was logged as a modern record for the most assists in one game.

Veteran Bill Cowley broke an all-time N.H.L. scoring record on February 12, when he gathered a goal and an assist to raise his scoring total to 574 points, two above the former mark held by Syd Towe who had retired. The game in which Cowley set his record was preceded by a colorful ceremony honoring Dit Clapper, coach of the Bruins, who officially retired after a 20-year N.H.L. playing career. At the end of the season, Cowley also retired.

Even the lowly Black Hawks managed to set a record for attendance as 20,004 thronged into the Chicago Stadium on February 13 to see them lose to Boston.

This was a venomous season in the N.H.L. as far as brawls and verbal battles were concerned. A bitter feud developed between the Leafs and Canadiens, and it worsened when Elmer Lach collided with Don Metz in a game in Montreal on February 7. Lach was carried from the ice with a fractured skull. Metz received a minor penalty on the play; Lach was finished for the season. Writers in the other five cities termed the Leafs "to aggressive," and a "Wood-chopper's Brawl" ensued between Montreal and Toronto in a January weekend battle. A few nights later a free-for-all developed between the Leafs and Hawks in Chicago. There was a wild riot in New York on March 16 when the Canadiens beat Rangers 4-3. The ice was a mass of wrangling players, many of whom used sticks on one another's heads.

Second-place Toronto met fourth-place Detroit in Series B of the semi-finals and Leafs won the first game 3-2 on Howie Meeker's overtime goal. The Wings came back to even the series by crushing the Leafs 9-1. The third game which Toronto won, exploded into a riot when an argument between Howe and Mortson led to a battle that overflowed into the aisles. The Leafs took two more games to knock the Wings out of the playoffs.

It took the Canadiens six games, two of them overtime encounters, to dispose of Boston. Then came the battle between Toronto and Montreal. The Canadiens breezed to an easy 6-0 victory in the opening game, but lost 4-0 in the second game which saw Richard banished with a 20-minute match misconduct penalty for the injury he caused to Ezinicki's head. Earlier in the game the Rocket had been assessed a major penalty for felling Vic Lynn.

The next day President Clarence Campbell announced that Richard had been suspended for one game and fined \$250, a fine which included the automatic \$100 assessment which goes with a match penalty. Hurt in the first period when he tore knee ligaments in a collision with Gus Mortson, the Rocket said, "I simply lost my temper."

Despite the 4-2 score for Toronto the third game was a close battle. Leafs drew a 3-0 lead, but Canadiens scored twice in a third-period comeback. Kennedy's goal with less than a minute remaining killed their drive.

A thrilling overtime goal by Apps, assisted by Harry Watson, won Toronto the fifth game 3-2. Ted Kennedy's winning goal in a 2-1 victory brought the Stanley Cup to Toronto on April 19. The win was termed a modern hockey miracle, because the Leafs were the youngest Cup winners in N.H.L. history.

1947-48

In October, 1947, the first annual All-Star game, aimed at stirring the player's pension fund on its financial way, was played in Toronto between the Cup-holding Leafs and an aggregation of All-Stars coached by Dick Irvin. The game was won by the All-Stars 4-3, but was marred when Bill Mosienko of Chicago fractured his left ankle after being body-checked by Jim Thomson. All-Star teams had been selected since 1931, and one All-Star game had been played in 1934 for the benefit of Ace Bailey, but 1947 was the start of a new tradition.

Trades were one of the main topics of the 1947-48 season with a surprise deal being an off-season swap between Canadiens and Rangers. Montreal gave up Buddy O'Connor and Frank Eddolls for Hal Laycoe, Joe Bell and George Robertson.

Roy Conacher and the Red Wings differed over \$1,500 which Conacher wanted to boost his pay to \$8,500, and in October the winger was dealt off to Rangers for Ed Slowinski. Several days later Conacher announced his retirement. A few days afterwards, Bill Tobin, Chicago's president, paid a reported \$25,000 to Detroit for Conacher's contract. The Red Wings had also traded Billy Taylor to Boston for Bep Guidolin. Taylor had given the Red Wings excellent service in 1946-47, but he changed uniforms just one day before the new schedule opened.

Because the Maple Leafs needed strength down the middle, Conn Smythe attempted to swing a deal in late October with Bill Tobin. On November 3, Chicago accepted Gus Bodnar, Ernie Dickens, Gaye Stewart, Bud Poile and Bob Goldham for Max Bentley, the League scoring champion, and the then unknown Cy Thomas. Said President Clarence Campbell, "It's the biggest trade in the N.H.L.

for a long, long time, and only goes to emphasize the worth of such a player as Bentley."

On December 31, 1947, Charlie Conacher, who had been coaching the junior Oshawa Generals, took over the coaching duties of the last-place Black Hawks as a replacement for Johnny Gottselig who became manager. Conacher's pro coaching debut on New Year's Eve was ruined by a 4-0 defeat in Detroit where the Wings were also being guided by a rookie mentor, Tommy Ivan.

There were a number of contenders for the Calder Memorial Trophy that season. Red Kelly and Jim McFadden were newcomers to Detroit; Ed Sandford and his cousin Ed Harrison were in the same category for Boston. Canadiens had Floyd Curry; Eddie Kullman was a new Ranger while Don Raleigh had been around for 15 games in 1943-44.

It was evident throughout most of the season that Montreal and Chicago stood a good chance of missing the playoffs. Chicago's position wasn't surprising since they were the cellar team of 1946-47, but Canadiens were the champions of the past season. There was no criticism of Conacher's coaching, and before the schedule ended, it was announced that he could have the job again in the fall.

Canadiens were struggling to get out of fifth place on January 11, when Toe Blake, their 35-year-old captain who had played superbly all season, suffered a double fracture of the right ankle when checked by New York's Bill Juzda. The injury ended his playing career.

Because he was coaching a loser, Dick Irvin was lampooned by home fans, one of whom threatened to burn down the Forum if Irvin was on the bench for the next Saturday home game. To show they were behind their leader, Canadien players wore bright red firemen hats in a pregame warm-up in Toronto. But the "firemen" couldn't catch fire, and Montreal ended four points behind New York.

On February 24, Clarence Campbell began an intensive investigation into rumors that at least two N.H.L. players gambled on games in which they played. Most of the probe took place in Detroit, because the police in that city were said to have wire-tapped the conversations of a big-time gambler named James Tamer.

On March 9, Campbell expelled Billy Taylor of the Rangers and suspended Don Gallinger of the Bruins on charges of being associated with gamblers. Taylor had associated with Tamer and through him placed a \$500 bet on Chicago who were opposing the Bruins on February 18. Gallinger was in the Boston line-up that night, but did not collect any points. Campbell emphasized that no other N.H.L. players were involved, and that no fix of a game was attempted by any player. The expulsion and suspension of Taylor

and Gallinger for life, were the most severe penalties ever handed out.

By mid-season there had been 400 more minutes in penalties than over the same period the previous campaign. Toronto's Bill Ezinicki was branded as the League villain after a bodycheck he gave Edgar Laprade of New York. He was later absolved of using illegal tactics, but Frank Boucher continued an anti-Ezinicki campaign. In a February game between the Leafs and the Canadiens, refereed by King Clancy, it took 50 minutes to play the first period.

Syl Apps, who had retired in the spring of 1947, was back in a Leaf uniform at the start of the new season after yielding to the persuasion of the management. He retired permanently in April, 1948, together with teammate Nick Metz.

Coach Frank Boucher had been touting Don Raleigh as the likely rookie winner when the 21-year-old newcomer broke an all-time record for speedy assists by picking up three in 1 minute and 21 seconds against the Canadiens, but it was Detroit's Jim McFadden who won the Calder Trophy.

The duel between Elmer Lach and his former teammate Buddy O'Connor, both centers, for the League scoring championship had a thrilling finale when Lach nosed out O'Connor by one point. It was a great comeback for Lach after missing half of the past season because of his fractured skull.

It took five games for the Leafs to eliminate Boston in their semi-final series. The highlight was a big melee late in the third game which Toronto won 5-1, taking a 3-0 lead in the round. Boston fans swarmed onto the ice attacking Leaf players. Bill Ezinicki and Grant Warwick started the rough play, but the main bout was between Murray Henderson and Harry Watson. Henderson retired to the dressing room with a broken nose, and the Bruin president, Weston Adams, was ejected from the Leaf dressing room by Conn Smythe for his failure to permit police to remove the offending fans. In comparison, the Ranger-Red Wing series was played quietly and cleanly with Detroit winning in six games.

Toronto skated away with the Stanley Cup in four straight games, minus riots, but with plenty of referee-baiting.

1948-49

With Syl Apps definitely in retirement the Maple Leafs made an offseason trade in an attempt to get a replacement. They had hoped to get Ed Sandford from the Bruins, but Art Ross wouldn't deal, so the Leafs sent Stanowski to Rangers for Cal Gardner.

Having missed a playoff berth in the spring of 1948, Frank Setke began a swift rebuilding job on the Canadiens. There was pessimism in August when it was learned that a back injury might end Ken Reardon's career. Doug Harvey, a rookie from the Montreal

senior Royals, had been signed as defensive insurance, but Reardon was able to play for two more seasons.

The Ranger club took a severe October jolt when four of their players, high scoring Buddy O'Connor, Frank Eddols, Edgar Laprade and Bill Moe, were involved in a car accident near Rouse's Point, N.Y. All four were unconscious when admitted to hospital. The player most severely injured was O'Connor who sustained broken ribs. The Rangers sagged throughout the season largely because of these and other injuries, and ended in the League cellar. Desperate for help, Frank Boucher in December sent Elwyn Morris and Eddie Kullman, plus an estimated \$30,000 to \$40,000 in cash to Providence for rookie defensemen Allan Stanley. A few days later Boucher, who had served as New York's coach, relinquished his duties and brought in Lynn Patrick as his replacement. Patrick at 36 became the N.H.L.'s youngest coach. Boucher, 47, continued with New York and managed the Ranger farm system which included eight teams.

The Bruins, on their way to a second-place finish, were flying by late November. Much credit was given to Milt Schmidt, Ed Sandford, Grant Warwick, Frank Brimsek and the most improved third line in hockey. The Bruins were getting mileage from Ed Kryzanski, Paul Ronty, Jimmy Peters and Pete Babando.

Don Gallinger, suspended the previous March and hopeful of winning an appeal and rejoining the Bruins, was officially barred from the N.H.L. forever in September. In making this announcement public, Clarence Campbell declined to name the charges against him.

In November a non-fraternization law was issued warning players of opposing teams not to mingle. A copy of the Campbell letter, posted in the Toronto dressing room, said that "fraternization may give the wrong impression." This produced a quip or two. It was pointed out that the Bentley brothers ought not to associate and that Jim Henry and Chuck Rayner, partners in a motel business, would have to sever connections.

Charlie Conacher's Black Hawks ended the schedule in fifth place, but only seven points behind Toronto. A February feud developed between Conacher and the Leafs arising from a game in which Chicago's Red Hamill axed Toronto's Vic Lynn. Conacher branded the Leafs as the "League's cry-babies" after they claimed an "unprovoked attack." He pointed out that Lynn instigated the situation and had been tagged with a minor penalty. Lynn required eight stitches and suffered a mild concussion. Hamill later visited him in hospital and apologized, but he also paid a \$250 fine and was suspended for one game.

A League record was smashed on November 25 when ten major penalties were called on the Leafs and the Canadiens in Montreal.

The old record, established February 13, 1932, involved the Leafs and Montreal Maroons. Two of the culprits on that occasion had been Hap Day, who happened to be coaching the Leafs when the new record was set, and King Clancy, who refereed the latest brawl.

Toronto and Montreal became embroiled again, this time in early January, when the main event was between Cal Gardner and Kenny Reardon. Campbell clamped down on the stick swingers, suspending them for a game against one another; he also fined Gardner \$250 and Reardon \$200. The incident had been building up for two years, ever since Reardon lost some teeth and was cut for 15 stitches by Gardner's stick.

Between fights there was the occasional amusing incident in the N.H.L. The wife of Montreal defenseman Glen Harmon owned a noted hat shop, and Mrs. Butch Bouchard, wife of Canadiens' captain, was enamored of a certain creation. Harmon appointed himself delivery boy and toted the hat to the Forum. He turned it over to Bouchard, warning him not to look at the expensive price tag. When Bouchard peeked and demurred at the cost, Harmon offered to let him have the hat free of charge if he scored two goals that night. In all of the previous season Bouchard had scored only four goals, but he rose to the challenge. The outcome of the game was Bouchard 2, Detroit 0. And Harmon lost a hat.

The season of 1948-49 was a particularly rough one for Montreal's Elmer Lach. He suffered a jaw fracture on December 11 in a game against Chicago, wore a steel brace that clamped his jaws together and lost ten pounds while on a liquid diet. He recovered, returned to the line-up, and sustained another jaw fracture in March. In April he announced his retirement from a hospital bed. (This retirement was short-lived).

Bill Durnan, who had to be coaxed into playing another season with Canadiens after the home fans jeered him in 1947-48, set a new modern record for N.H.L. goaltending on March 9 in Chicago. Durnan had a string of four straight shutouts and 283 minutes and 45 seconds of scoreless play going into the Hawk-Canadien game. He held the Hawks scoreless in the first period, but his streak ended at 5:36 of the second period when Gaye Stewart scored. That gave him 309 minutes and 21 seconds without a goal being scored against him, surpassing the 290 minutes and 12-second mark set by the Hawks' Charlie Gardiner in 1930.

Detroit's Jack Adams made himself a prophet in 1948-49 when he said, "There's not enough money in the N.H.L. to buy Gordie Howe. He's the greatest young player I ever saw." Like Durnan, the 21-year-old Howe had the advantage of being ambidextrous. Referring to a goal he'd seen Howe score on Canadiens, Adams remarked, "That's the first time I can recall an ambidextrous winger beating an ambidextrous goalie."

Despite being in fifth place the Black Hawks held the two top spots when the scoring race ended. Roy Conacher was the champion with Doug Bentley his runner-up. For the fifth time in six seasons Bill Durnan captured the Vezina Trophy.

Detroit, with a strong, well balanced team, had to fight seven games before getting past the Canadiens in the Stanley Cup semi-finals. One stumbling block was rookie Gerry Plamondon, Montreal's top playoff scorer, with 5 goals and one assist.

By disposing of Boston in five games and polishing off Detroit in four straight, Toronto's Hap Day established a remarkable coaching record of five Stanley Cups in eight seasons. In the finals the desperate Wings even had an oxygen tank on their bench, a last ditch move by Detroit executives who borrowed the equipment from the junior Montreal Royals. Detroit's 27-year-old Bill Quackenbush became the first defenseman to win the Lady Byng Trophy polling 52 points out of a possible 54.

1949-50

In an attempt to capture the Stanley Cup in the 1949-50 campaign, the Detroit Red Wings exploded two N.H.L. deals on August 16. They sold Bud Poile to New York, his fourth N.H.L. team, for an undisclosed amount of cash. Then they sent All-Star defenseman Bill Quackenbush and forward Pete Horeck to Boston for forwards Pete Babando and Jimmy Peters, plus defensemen Clare Martin and Lloyd Durham. Said Detroit manager Jack Adams: "We want the Stanley Cup. We have defensemen, but we don't have forwards. You can be sure I hate to lose Quackenbush."

Later, the Boston Bruins sold their once-prize goaltender, Frank Brimsek, to the Black Hawks for a large, undisclosed sum of money. Brimsek had become unhappy as a Bruin, and his place was being taken by rookie Jack Gelineau, who was to become the Calder Trophy winner that year. George (Buck) Boucher, the elder brother of Frank Boucher and coach of the Allan-Cup-champion Ottawa Senators, signed a one-year contract to coach the Bruins when Dit Clapper resigned unexpectedly at the end of the 1948-49 schedule.

Except for minor changes, the Canadiens announced they had a stand-pat club held over from the previous season. Elmer Lach, beset by injuries, had retired in the spring, but he ended his retirement in the fall. He was then 31. Besides the old reliables, Dick Irvin anticipated top performances from Gille Dube, a rookie who was to have a trial with Richard and Lach, plus Normie Dussault, a forward who had been impressive a year earlier.

In October the Rangers signed rugged defenseman Gus Kyle from the Regina Capitals with a view to teaming him with Allan Stanley. In less than a month of action, Kyle, and ex-Mountie who had no previous pro experience, had added backbone to the Ranger

blue line. There was even a chant of: "Stop the Rangers or they'll win the Stanley Cup," an unheard-of theme for the League door-mats.

It was in December that Frank Boucher, head man of the Rangers, stated, "The red-line should be taken out of hockey." Because he was a member of the Rules Committee, he was rebuked by President Campbell for speaking publicly on the matter. Boucher immediately offered his resignation, but Campbell asked him to reconsider.

Campbell, in his fourth year as League President, must have found the 1949-50 season as trying as some of his experiences in the war. On February 9, Charlie Conacher, Chicago's coach, was in trouble on two fronts. When the Hawks absorbed a 9-2 beating in Detroit, Conacher became incensed when Doug Bentley was felled in a collision with George Gee. He exchanged hot words with referee Chadwick when the latter declined to call a penalty. Conacher then grabbed the official and continued the discussion at close range.

Afterwards, Detroit writer Lew Walter attempted to interview Conacher in the Hawks' dressing room. Conacher reportedly blew up, criticized the writer's past stories and then knocked him to the floor. By March, Conacher had been fined \$200 for his attack on Walter, and the writer dismissed his court action against the Chicago coach.

More friction arose, this time in Boston, when Conn Smythe conducted a press conference to diagnose the hockey ills that cut attendance at the Boston Garden in 1949-50. Quoted in a column by Jim Vipond of the *Toronto Globe & Mail*, Smythe said: "There's nothing wrong with the new 70-game schedule, the rules of the game or the town of Boston. Any young Canadian who cannot play 70 games should get out of the sport and likewise any promoter who cannot sell 35 games in his hometown." Smythe mentioned no names but his barbs were directed at Bruin president Weston Adams and manager Art Ross.

Ross made a heated retort, pointedly referring to the Saturday night dates Toronto had tied up. Weston Adams tossed his own press conference and was chilly to Toronto writers. A few days later he apologized for his behavior at the gathering, then called Smythe. "A triple threat to our fans, team and management."

Earlier, Campbell had had another mess to sort out. When the Canadiens lost 4-1 in Chicago on November 2, 1949, a wild melee broke out between Billy Reay, Leo Gravelle, Ken Reardon and a number of Hawk fans. One fan even chased Reardon across the ice. The fracas ended with the three Canadian players being arrested; Reardon and Gravelle were jailed for one hour and released on \$200 bonds. There were no charges preferred against Reay.

Commenting on the game, help up 20 minutes by the outbreak which threatened to bring a crowd of spectators on the ice, Campbell said, "Fans should leave the fights to the players. There's ample protection for the patron if he stays in the seat allotted to him."

Late in November, the slumping Leafs who had picked up only eight out of a possible 26 points, so exasperated Conn Smythe that he benched Turk Broda with an order to drop 7 of his 197 pounds, snapping, "We're not running a fat man's team." The next day he engineered a trade with Cleveland Barons for the rights to lanky Al Rollins, a slim goaltender. Additionally, Gil Mayer was recalled from Pittsburgh for immediate netminding duties. He, too, was on a diet—trying to gain weight.

On December 5, weighing eight ounce less than mandatory, Broda was back in Toronto's nets. Montreal's Dick Irvin lauded Smythe's actions, but Frank Selke differed: "We don't make spectacles of our players," he stated. "When they get older, naturally they get heavier."

Chicago, who made it to fifth place the previous season, slipped back into the cellar in 1949-50. No blame was attached to either Conacher or Tobin. The trouble lay in a lack of a farm system; this situation stemmed from the late Major McLaughlin's unwillingness to groom his own talent. After a scouting trip to see what might be available to the Hawks, Conacher was evidently disenchanted; he resigned at the schedule's end.

It was on January 5, 1950, that the Montreal Canadiens marked their 40th anniversary in hockey with their first win of the season over the Bruins. In a pre-game ceremony, Newsy Lalonde, Jack Laviolette and Art Bernier, all members of the first Canadian team, were introduced to the crowd. Ten nights later Ken Mosdell scored the final Montreal goal in a 3-0 win over Chicago and that was the team's 4,000th goal in 40 years of pro campaigning.

Clarence Campbell was busy on March 1, imposing a \$1,000 fine on Montreal's Kenny Reardon to keep the peace in a verbal extension of his feud with Cal Gardner. This development was induced by a magazine article in which Reardon was quoted as saying: "I'm going to see that Gardner gets 14 stitches in the mouth. I may have to wait a long time but I'll get even."

The final games of the schedule saw a quick surge by Montreal move them over Toronto and into second place by three points. Detroit already had the championship locked up and the Rangers had a seven point edge on the fourth berth.

The Rangers, who were about to take on the Canadiens in the semi-finals, were relieved to get Edgar Laprade, the club's top scorer and playmaker back into action after he had missed a number of games with a torn knee cartilage. Montreal got back four of their five injured players for the series, and, at Irvin's sug-

gestion, King Clancy, coach of the Cincinnati Mohawks, was appointed an aide, specifically looking after the rookies in the line-up.

Penalties to the Canadiens (five of them to Reardon) and the brilliance of New York's Charlie Rayner in goal led to a 3-1 victory for the Rangers in the first game. In the second contest New York grabbed a 3-2 win, and another injury was added to Montreal's growing list. With 15 seconds left in the game Reardon was carried off the ice on a stretcher suffering from a dislocated left shoulder. The day before he had received a telegram from his sister in Regina extending greetings for his 29th birthday. The address on the telegram read: "Care of penalty box, Forum."

Game three was just as disastrous for Canadiens, who were easily defeated 4-1, mainly on the strength of three goals by Pentti Lund.

The surprise move of the series came on April 4, the morning of the fourth game, when Bill Durnan asked Irvin to use understudy Gerry McNeil in the nets. Durnan explained that bad nerves and the effects of an injury he had sustained a month earlier in Chicago were his main reasons. It was also known that his right hand, which had bothered him all season, would need to be frozen if he played.

It was Elmer Lach's overtime goal that kept Canadiens in Cup contention and made Durnan the happiest man in the rink. McNeil, who hadn't played in a couple of weeks, was nervous, but good enough to be one of the stars.

Five rookies, McNeil, Tom Johnson, Paul Meger, Bobby Frampton and Bert Hirschfeld, lined up with the Canadiens for game five. The changes didn't help. The Rangers, well coached by Lynn Patrick, stormed to a 3-0 triumph.

Detroit faced the Leafs in their series knowing Toronto had defeated them in 11 straight playoff games and knocked the Wings out of contention in three consecutive seasons. Toronto's domination continued with a 5-0 opening victory, but the score was overshadowed by a devastating injury to Gordie Howe, Wings' leading scorer, who was carried off bleeding on a stretcher after a third period collision with captain Ted Kennedy.

Preliminary examinations brought discouraging conclusions. Howe had a deep cut near his right eye, a fractured nose, a possible fractured cheekbone and a possible fractured skull. After a team of doctors performed a 90-minute operation to save his life, Howe's condition was described as serious, but team physician Dr. C. L. Tomsu said, "The outlook is good." At noon on March 29, the big right-winger was pronounced out of danger, and his progress was rapid and satisfactory from then on.

There were many versions as to how the Red Wing player had been injured. Most Detroiters blamed Kennedy for a deliberate injury; most Toronto representatives took the opposite view. Clarence

Campbell made it clear that the game officials absolved Kennedy completely.

The Wings squared the series in the second game which resembled a vendetta as they bludgeoned their way to victory 3-1. Kennedy, already suffering from a charley horse, came out of the game with a black eye and a cut lip. He was the chief target of Detroit players and fans. President Campbell, an observer at the game, warned of fines and suspensions if the feuding didn't stop. "If these steps do not produce the desired results, more drastic action will be taken to ensure that real hockey will be played for the remainder of the series," he stated.

When the third game was played on Toronto ice, it was a tame affair with only three penalties. Toronto won 2-0 as they outshot the Wings 37-17. Critics termed it: "Hockey as it should be played." Then Detroit tied the series in game four when Leo Reise scored in the second overtime period. It was a 15-foot freakish shot, but it earned a 2-1 win.

Ivan called up the Wilson brothers, Larry and Johnny, for the fifth game, but they couldn't spoil Broda's 2-0 shutouts as Toronto recaptured the series lead. The Wings evened the series again with a strong 4-0 win in the sixth game.

It was another overtime goal by Leo Reise that demolished the Leafs 1-0 and ended the spell they held over Detroit. Conn Smythe said, "It has been a long reign."

With the circus taking over Madison Square Garden, the homeless Rangers elected to play their "home games" against Detroit in Maple Leaf Gardens where the S.R.O. sign was hung up early. No one, other than avid New York supporters, seriously thought a fourth place team would threaten Detroit, but New York pushed the series to a full seven games, three of them going into overtime.

After two games the series was deadlocked and the Wings benched four players, Pete Babando, Steve Black, Marcel Pronovost and Larry Wilson. An S.O.S. was sent out for Terry Sawchuk, Clare Raglan, Al Dewsbury, Gord Haidy and Doug McKay. Then Detroit outclassed New York 4-0. Rangers came back with two overtime victories to make the Wings fight back with a 5-4 win in game six.

Detroit won the Stanley Cup by a 4-3 score on April 23. In the second overtime period Pete Babando, one of the men Adams had obtained from Boston in the fall when he wanted to create a Cup-winning team, sank the winning goal.

A TALE OF TWO CITIES

1950-1960

There were six teams in the League during the 1950's, but never before or since were two cities so dominant for a comparable length of time. For seven straight seasons, ending with 1954-55, the Detroit Red Wings won the National Hockey League Championship. In 1955-56, the Montreal Canadiens were the champs of the regular season, losing out to Detroit in 1956-57, but taking the Prince of Wales Trophy for the rest of the decade.

The list of Stanley Cup winners tells a similar story: Detroit, then Montreal; Montreal solidly from 1956 through 1960, Detroit for the first five years except for a six-game elimination by Montreal in 1951 and an upset by Boston in 1953. The experts have long debated about Detroit's decline in the latter half of this decade, but certainly one reason was a disastrous series of trades before the 1955-56 season, leaving them with only 9 regulars from the previous Cup-winning team.

The Chicago Black Hawks and the New York Rangers were the perennial cellar dwellers of the decade. Even with the help of a hypnotist for one season, the Rangers made the playoffs only 3 times, and the Black Hawks were last for 6 out of 7 years until 18-year-old Bobby Hull broke into the League in 1957-58 and led the scorers two seasons later to help the Hawks finish third.

Two players dominated the decade, Maurice Richard of Montreal, the dynamic scorer, and Gordon Howe of Detroit, the perfect player. Arguments still persist as to who was the brighter star. In the 1950-51 season, Richard became the highest scorer in Canadiens' history with his 271st goal, and Howe earned the first of four straight scoring championships, an honor Richard never won. During the decade, the older Rocket was on 7 all-star first or second teams, Howe on 9. But statistics don't tell the whole story. No witness will forget Richard's goal against the Bruins in the 1953 playoffs with six stitches in his head, or his 4 goals in one game in the 1957 playoffs, or his constant tiffs with players, officials and fans.

90

These were years of growth and prosperity for the N.H.L. In 1952 Cleveland almost joined the League, and San Francisco and Los Angeles were rumored to be on the verge in 1959, but the N.H.L. owners did not encourage these attempts. One change of front office management took place, when Jim Norris Jr. and Arthur Wirtz took over the Black Hawks in 1952, but this was "in the family" since they had been associated with Detroit.

The players started to get a better deal in the 1950's. The N.H.L. pension plan, with assets of over half a million, was revised in 1957 with more benefits for the players. The players' cut of the Stanley Cup playoffs was increased and an Owner-Player Council was established by the owners. However, they did not recognize a players' association formed in 1957 with Ted Lindsay of Detroit as president. The idea of an association subsided, for the time being.

The interest of the fans increased substantially throughout the decade, particularly with the advent of television. By 1957 games in all six cities were telecast. But spectator interest has never in the history of hockey become so inflamed as it did on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 1955, the night of "The Riot."

On March 13, 1955, in Boston, Rocket Richard attacked Hal Laycoe with his stick and struck linesman Cliff Thompson with his fist. Clarence Campbell quickly suspended Richard for the remainder of the season, including the playoffs. At the time Richard was almost assured of his first League scoring championship. In the next few days teammate Boom Boom Geoffrion overtook Richard and won the scoring crown by one point.

On St. Patrick's Day, March 17, the Canadiens met Detroit at the Forum. Montreal fans, incensed over the suspension of their hero, gathered outside the building in mid-afternoon. Some carried banners and demanded, "We want Campbell." In the middle of the first period Campbell arrived at the game and was pelted with eggs, tomatoes and pickled pigs' feet. A young hoodlum approached Campbell, offered his hand in a friendly way, then punched the League president.

A tear gas bomb, thrown from behind one goal, landed on the ice and the fire director ordered the building cleared. While the panic was narrowly averted inside the Forum, a mob outside the arena, spurred on by teen-agers, became angry beyond belief, and finally uncontrollable.

Screams and shouts filled the air, and then rifle shots smashed through the Forum windows. The mob swept down Ste. Catherine street, damaging cars, ripping through stores, looting and burning private property. Campbell, spirited out of the Forum, was lucky to escape with his life. He was not persuaded by The Riot to rescind Rocket's suspension.

1950-51

The face-lifting for the N.H.L.'s 1950-51 schedule began weeks before the October 11 season opening, earliest in League history.

On July 1, 1950, Lynn Patrick was lured back from premature retirement by Boston's Art Ross as successor to coach George "Buck" Boucher. Ross announced that Patrick was being groomed to handle Bruin managerial chores by 1952-53.

Conn Smythe, who was ailing during the 1949-50 campaign, gave up some of his duties at the end of that season. Hap Day, a five-time Stanley Cup winner in the ten years he coached the Maple Leafs, moved up as acting general manager while Joe Primeau assumed the coaching duties.

In July the biggest trade in the history of the N.H.L. was disclosed with word that Detroit had swapped five of their players for four from Chicago. The champion Wings gave up goalie Harry Lumley, defensemen Jack Stewart and Al Dewsbury, center Don Morrison and left winger Pete Babando, whose overtime goal had captured the Stanley Cup for them the previous April. In return Detroit received goaltender Jim Henry, defenseman Bob Goldham and forwards Gaye Stewart and Metro Prystai. In a separate deal they got Vic Stasiuk for Lee Fogolin and Steve Black. Hawk president Bill Tobin felt his organization had outsmarted the Red Wings, but time showed that Detroit benefited more in the long run.

The Toronto management became disenchanted with Bill Ezinicki, who was traded to Boston, along with Vic Lynn, for Fern Flaman, Phil Maloney and Kenny Smith. The Leafs also got the rights to Leo Boivin, then a Port Arthur junior.

At the same time the Bruins sent Ed Harrison and Zellio Toppazzini to New York for Dunc Fisher, a forward who had led Rangers' playoff scoring in the previous spring. New York also demoted Wally Stanowski to Cincinnati and elevated a 22-year-old defenseman, Jack Evans.

By November the Rangers were stumbling along in such luckless fashion more aid had to be called in, but not in the form of new players. Dr. David F. Tracy, a psychologist and hypnotist, was retained to instill confidence in the players—something he had failed to do in an earlier experiment with the St. Louis Browns of baseball. The first night he worked with them, the Rangers played their 13th straight game without a win.

Despite constant line-up tampering, the revamped Wings set a record for the most points compiled by a team in one season. In the 70-game schedule they won 44, lost 13 and tied 13 for an impressive 101 points. All this was accomplished with rookie goalie Terry Sawchuk in their nets.

Toronto got off to a flying, early season start, going undefeated in their first eleven games. Al Rollins, more impressive in each outing, was part of a two-platoon netminding system with Turk Broda and it was Smythe's aim to have his rookie and veteran netminders double winners of the Vezina Trophy. The award eventually went to Rollins, who played in 40 games to Broda's 31 games.

By December 5, Toronto was completely dominating the League with a comfortable lead over the other five teams. Bentley, Sloan and Kennedy were leading the point race and Broda paced his rivals in shutouts.

But Detroit zoomed ahead, with the Leafs ending in second place with 95 points. Except for Chicago, piloted to last place by Ebbie Goodfellow, the other three clubs were clustered together. Montreal and Boston eventually nudged New York into fifth place.

The Canadiens were still injecting youth into their 1950-51 line-up. Besides 23-year-old goalie Gerry McNeil, they had added Paul Masnick and Tom Johnson, whose first fight was a brawl in Maple Leaf Gardens on January 24 with Ted Kennedy. Calum MacKay had been held over from the previous season, and they dug into their amateur ranks for Bernie Geoffrion.

Detroit announced that Bert Olmstead, their newly-acquired left winger, had been traded to Canadiens for Leo Gravelle and an undisclosed amount of cash. Paired with Lach and Richard, Olmstead became the first man to click with them since Toe Blake rounded out the Punch Line. The Rocket spurted forth with 13 goals in 9 games.

This was a particularly hectic and rugged season. On February 3, the Black Hawks went wild in Toronto in losing 6-3 to the Leafs. Coach Goodfellow defied referee Hugh McLean's order to leave the bench, contravening a rule which states that a manager or coach, so ordered by an official, must not direct his team's play. Goodfellow was subsequently fined \$250 by Clarence Campbell, a figure Bill Tobin considered "pretty stiff."

Roy Conacher was assessed a game misconduct for pushing the referee and, worse still, the last place Hawks lost Gus Bodnar and Bill Gadsby through injuries. This calamity further weakened Chicago who had lost their captain and star defenseman, Jack Stewart, for the entire season when he hurt his back in December.

A more disturbing exhibition had occurred on January 25 in Detroit when Boston's Bill Ezinicki fought with Ted Lindsay for more than three minutes. It ended with the Bruin player prone on the ice, bleeding profusely from a cut above the ear, Lindsay was cut above the right eye and on the hand. Each drew a match penalty. Clarence Campbell used an iron hand in dealing with this fracas. Each player was suspended for three games and each paid a \$300 fine.

In March, Toronto's Gus Mortson was fined \$200 and suspended for two games for striking Chicago's Adam Brown with his stick. Mortson also collected six stitches.

March was a busy month for President Campbell, who fined Maurice Richard \$500 for "conduct prejudicial to the welfare of hockey." This related to a scuffle in New York's Picadilly Hotel on the morning of March 4, when Richard, incensed over what he felt was an undeserved game misconduct penalty in Montreal the previous night, grabbed referee Hugh McLean by the neck or tie. No punches were thrown but considerable profanity filled the air.

The Stanley Cup series "A" pitted Dick Irvin's "kids" against the mighty Red Wings and the third place Montrealers were given scant chance of success, but the Canadiens knocked Detroit off in six games. In game one the Canadiens twice battled from behind to tie Detroit and send the game into four overtime periods with the Rocket eventually clicking. The second game ended exactly the same way, the Rocket striking in the third overtime.

In game three, Gordie Howe connected for the first Wing goal in 218 minutes and 42 seconds of play against the Canadiens. When Detroit won 2-0 someone said, "Class will tell."

When Detroit evened the series on a 4-1 score they became heavy favorites to win it all. But a red-hot band of 10 inspired rookies helped deflate the Wings 5-2, although it was said that Richard's flattening of Ted Lindsay with one punch turned the tide. A 3-2 win for Canadiens in Montreal before a frenzied crowd sent the Wings home stunned and deflated. "It's unbelievable, but it's true," said Detroit manager Jack Adams.

Toronto eliminated Boston easily, to enter the finals with Montreal, which turned into a series of five overtime games. The opening game saw the Leafs' Sid Smith whip in the winner at 5:51 of the first overtime period. Richard was the hero once more in overtime when he sank the Leafs 3-2 in a stirring battle. Game three in Montreal was also broken up in overtime by Ted Kennedy to give the Leafs a 2-1 win. And the fourth game, played in Montreal, was broken up by Harry Watson as Leafs won 3-2.

Game five was the most dramatic of all, breaking all records for sheer tension. Montreal had the game all but cinched at 2-1 when the Leafs yanked their goalie and Tod Sloan scored at 19:28 of the third period. This set the stage for 2 minutes and 53 seconds of overtime before a Bill Barilko slapshot won the Cup for Toronto. Barilko died tragically in a plane wreck the following August.

1951-52

As the 1951-52 season progressed, Toronto felt the absence of Barilko on defense and in February promoted Jim Morrison from Pittsburgh. He had joined the Leaf chain a month earlier when an

angry Art Ross shook up his fifth place Bruins by trading Morrison to Toronto for Fleming Mackell, demoting Adam Brown, Lorne Ferguson and Pentti Lund, and elevating Real Chevrefils and Leo Labine. A few days later George Armstrong joined the Leafs from Pittsburgh.

Much traded Gaye Stewart packed again, this time going to New York while Detroit received Tony Leswick. Johnny McCormack, never too secure in Toronto, was sold to the Canadiens, keeping a promise Smythe made to Selke that Montreal would get first chance to buy him.

On August 20, the largest cash deal for players in N.H.L. history was revealed when the Black Hawks bought six players from Detroit for \$75,000. That surpassed the \$35,000 Toronto paid for King Clancy in the 1930's. In getting Jim FcFadden, George Gee, Jimmy Peters, Clare Martin, Clare Raglan and Max McNab the Hawks had a total of 19 former Red Wings in their fold. The Wings also let Jim Henry go to Boston.

In pre-season arrangements, Bob Davidson was named Toronto's chief scout, succeeding the late Squib Walker who died in the spring. The Leafs welcomed King Clancy back into their organization after a 14-year absence. His new role was talent developer for Toronto through his coaching job at Pittsburgh.

A long standing feud between Boston president Weston Adams and team manager Art Ross ended on October 12 when the latter stepped out by selling his share of the hockey team's stock to Walter Brown.

Royalty entered the hockey scene in both Toronto and Montreal when Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip attended a game in each city during October. The flamboyant Maurice Richard should have been the star of the Canadien-Ranger game with his two goals, but the usually self-effacing Floyd Curry stole Richard's thunder by scoring three goals.

The Rocket did dominate two mid-week contests between Toronto and Montreal. On Wednesday he threatened to konk a fan in a rail seat in Toronto and he got into a real fracas the following night. He was in the penalty box sitting out two majors and a misconduct for fighting with Fern Flaman when he unleashed his Sunday punch at Bill Juzda, who was standing too close to the box. The Leaf lay face downward for almost a minute. Richard was tossed out of the game. Two nights later he scored the 301st goal of his career.

By December, 1951, the Rangers had lost another coach. This time Neil Colville, only 37, was quitting because of the team's poor showing and the fact that his health was so poor he was on a milk diet. Fifty-three-year-old Bill Cook stepped in as Colville's replacement. New York wound up in fifth place with 59 points. At 25, defenseman Allan Stanley was made captain of the Rangers suc-

ceeding Frank Eddolls, who had departed as playing-coach of the Saskatoon Quakers, but a few days later Stanley was lost to the team for several weeks for bone surgery.

A couple of records were set in this season. On March 23, in a game against Rangers, Bill Mosienko of Chicago sparked a five goal third period burst as the Hawks won 7-6. Mosienko scored 3 goals in 21 seconds on netminder Lorne Anderson, breaking a record set in 1938 when Carl Liscombe of Detroit collected 3 goals in one minute and 52 seconds.

When Elmer Lach picked up a goal and three assists in a 7-0 win over Chicago, his total points were boosted to 550, a new League record.

Doug Bentley reportedly ran into a dispute with Bill Tobin a month after the season opened and departed for his Saskatchewan home. At 35, he had sustained a bruised hip which hampered his walking. Behind him was 1950-51, when he scored nine goals, his poorest output in nine seasons. It was said that he had originally agreed to a utility role with the Hawks, but got more work than he wanted. Additionally, Bentley's nerves were in a bad state. Rumor had it that he was back in Saskatoon coveting the coaching job Frank Eddolls had with the Quakers. That became a reality on December 30 when Eddolls, who had gone to Saskatoon to replace Bill Cook, was recalled by the injury-riddled Rangers.

When the schedule ended in late March the Detroit Red Wings, with Howe and Lindsay leading the point getters and Sawchuk owner of the Vezina, were heavy favorites to take the Stanley Cup. Toronto had the dubious privilege of meeting the Wings in the semi-final round and bowed out in four consecutive games.

Meanwhile, the Canadiens and Boston were battling seven games for the chance to meet Detroit. With Richard leading them, Canadiens sped to a 5-1 win in their opener. The second game was a 4-0 victory thanks largely to Bernie Geoffrion, who scored three goals. It was a costly win, because Ken Mosdell, who scored the other goal, fractured his leg.

The Bruins came back with a 4-1 win, when tied the series on April Fool's night with a 3-2 victory. They followed that up with a 1-0 win. Lynn Patrick joyfully predicted: "The Habs are dead." Two nights later Montreal's Paul Masnick scored in overtime to sink the Bruins 3-2. Then came the most dramatic goal of the series, a Rocket Richard special in the seventh game. The score was tied 1-1 in the second period when Richard was crashed to the ice by Leo LaBine. He was taken to the Forum clinic to get a six-stitch head wound attended to, and was in a foggy state when he returned to the ice. Late in the third period the Rocket took a Bouchard pass, went past four Bruins, warded off Bill Quackenbush with sheer strength, then hooked a short, one-handed shot past Sugar Jim

Henry. A four minute ovation followed the goal, and later Lynn Patrick commented, "A truck wouldn't have stopped Richard."

Detroit not only stopped Richard, but stymied the entire Canadian team, and disposed of them in four straight just as they had handled Toronto. That was a feat never before accomplished in the history of the N.H.L.'s best-of-seven series, which was introduced in 1939. The Wings swept the series by scores of 3-1, 2-1, 2-0 and 3-0. Wing checkers held Richard scoreless while Howe and Lindsay scored five of the eleven Detroit goals between them. Jack Adams called his club the greatest Detroit team of all time.

1952-53

The N.H.L. almost had a seventh team in their group in 1952-43 when the Cleveland Barons were accepted on May 14, with the proviso that they deposit \$425,000 to show good faith, prove they had sufficient working capital to consort with the established teams, and make sure that 60 per cent of their shareholders had a Cleveland residence.

With all the stipulations met, or so he thought, Jim Hendy triumphantly showed up at the June governors' meeting. He was greeted warmly, but suspiciously, on the grounds that the franchise was in debt for the money he had raked up. The governors felt the amount was too great to pay back in two years and suggested the city try again at a later date.

On July 29, Chicago announced the signing of Sid Abel, who had captained three Stanley Cup winning Red Wing teams, to a two-year contract as playing-coach. Bill Tobin stressed that he had sought Abel strictly as a coaching replacement for Ebbie Goodfellow, but Abel insisted he could aid the Hawks by playing.

Rumors became fact on September 11 when two former Red Wing officials, Jim Norris, Jr. and Arthur Wirtz, were revealed as Black Hawk executives. Norris became chairman of the board while Wirtz took over Tobin's presidency. Tobin moved down to general manager and vice-president. Norris immediately got together with Conn Smythe in September to swing a four-for-one deal. Goal-tender Harry Lumley went to the Leafs. The Hawks demanded Cal Gardner, Gus Morton, Ray Hannigan and Vezina Trophy winner Al Rollins. The always popular Lumley had been sought by the Leafs for some time. Norris and Wirtz felt their acquisition should provide the power to get the Hawks into the playoffs, which they did.

When Toronto subsequently sold Joe Klukay to Boston it lent emphasis to Conn Smythe's declaration of all-out war against his Leafs, whom he described as "The worst finishing team of 1951-52."

The Leafs added Ron Stewart, Bob Hassard, Leo Boivin and Eric Hesterenko to their roster. Injuries riddled Toronto for most of the

season, with George Armstrong starting out with a pre-season shoulder separation. The worst blow was a shoulder separation to Ted Kennedy, sustained in a fracas with Boston's Milt Schmidt. Then Max Bentley, who had suffered a back ailment and a nervous disorder, mysteriously left Toronto and motored back to his Delisle, Saskatchewan, home while Leaf brass remained bewildered. Smythe had called Toronto to finish either second or sixth; they missed fourth place by two points.

Detroit was still the dominating force in 1952-53, but the grip was weakening. In August the Wings gave up veteran Leo Reise for New York's Reg Sinclair, cash and an amateur defenseman. In December their ace left winger, Ted Lindsay, scored his 200th goal with New York's Charlie Rayner the victim. Rayner revealed that Lindsay, whom he called "Hockey's Enos Slaughter," gently tapped him with his stick and said, "Thanks."

With the death of the elder James Norris in December his daughter Marguerite moved into the Wings' office as president and Jack Adams assumed more authority. Adams was apparently exercising this authority a short time later when he stormed into the referees' room in the Olympia to protest a decision by Red Storey. Clarence Campbell later assessed Adams a \$500 fine.

Art Ross, who seldom went out on a limb with predictions, warned the rest of the League that his rebuilt Bruins were comparable to his 1942 squad. The team was built around goalie Jim Henry and a defense of Bill Quackenbush, Hal Laycoe, Bob Armstrong, Warren Godfrey and Jerry Toppazzini, a forward who served as fifth rearguard. Up front they had Schmidt, Sandford, McIntyre, Peirson, Red Sullivan and Woody Dumart. The Bruins ended with 69 points in a tie with Chicago, but gained third place on an extra victory.

In January the Rangers purchased the suspended Pete Babando from Chicago and merged him with former junior stars who had just turned pro. Harry Howell and Andy Bathgate had been signed while Aldo Guidolin came up from the Valleyfield Braves. Nothing helped and the Rangers ended last with 50 points.

The youth which the Canadiens had injected into their line-up in the past two seasons made them strong second-place finishers with 75 points and eased the burden of the veterans. Maurice Richard got off to a roaring start in October by scoring two fast goals against the Maple Leafs, which brought his total to 324, the same as record-holding Nels Stewart. The pressure was removed from the Rocket on November 9 in Montreal when he fired in his 325th goal. The Rocket kept the pucks that represented his 324th and 326th goals, but the record breaking rubber was forwarded to Herb Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth. It took Nels Stewart 15 seasons to amass his total while Richard did it in eleven. On the night he made history,

his linemate, Elmer Lach, scored his 200th goal.

Television moved into Maple Leaf Gardens in 1952-53 with the telecast starting at 9:30, catching action midway in the second period. In December the smallest turnout for a Red Wing visit to Toronto was noted with concern. A year earlier Clarence Campbell had been quoted as terming television: "The greatest menace of the entertainment world," so there was speculation that the absent standees were watching from their living rooms.

The 1952-53 schedule ended on a dramatic note as the Leafs made a desperate and unsuccessful effort to capture a playoff berth. Keeping their hopes alive was Ted Kennedy, who sparked them to double wins on the last weekend of regular play. Kennedy also collected his 200th goal a few days earlier in a game against Canadiens. This was the season that Gordie Howe threatened Richard's 30-goal record but fell one short at 49.

Since Detroit needed only eight games to take the Cup the year previous, they were favored to dispose of Boston easily in the semi-finals. A 7-0 clobbering of the Bruins in the opening game supported the theory.

But the Bruins fought back and handed Detroit their first setback in 10 playoff games as Jim Henry made 43 saves in a 5-3 win. It took a total of six games before Boston vanquished the Wings and went into the finals. Detroit outshot Boston in the six games 228 to 140, but Henry was superb. Top Bruin scorer was Ed Sandford, who led the playoff attack with six goals.

Meanwhile, Canadiens had a harder time getting past the Black Hawks. Gerry McNeil, like his predecessor Bill Durnan, was suffering from nerves and was replaced by Jacques Plante with Chicago leading 3-2 games. Canadiens won two straight and took the series four games to three.

Boston, after their stunning upset over Detroit, also encountered goaltending problems in the finals against Montreal. Sugar Jim Henry became ill and was replaced by Hershey's Gordon (Red) Henry early in the second game. Boston took only one game and 18-year-old center Elmer Lach fired an overtime goal on a pass from Richard in the fifth game, won by Canadiens 1-0.

1953-54

The New York Rangers, tired of being the League pushovers, made determined efforts in the summer of 1953 to build up their team for the new campaign. A waning box office interest spurred them to purchase Max Bentley from the Maple Leafs, get his brother Doug on a trial basis and persuade Frank Boucher to handle the dual role of manager-coach. In December Boucher handed the coaching job over to Muzz Patrick. The Bentley brother combination didn't last long. Doug played in 20 games, collecting two goals and ten assists,

then quit. Max got fourteen goals and eighteen assists in 57 games.

In July, Rangers obtained goalie Johnny Bower from Cleveland. Bower was to dislodge the Calder Trophy holder, Lorne Worsley, from the nets. New York also picked up Eldred Kobussen from the Barons in exchange for Emile Francis, Neil Strain and cash. An earlier deal with Cleveland netted them Bob Chrystal. By August they had engineered another transaction by trading Ed Slowinski and Pete Babando to Canadiens for defenseman Ivan Irwin.

Before the schedule opened on October 8, the earliest start in League history, New York signed Ike Hildebrand and 20-year-old Camille Henry. A week later Boucher predicted: "Henry could be the Rookie of the Year." He was. When the team was sagging in mid-season Edgar Laprade telephoned from his Port Arthur, Ontario, home and offered to make a comeback—then showed up for the last 35 games. New York ended fifth, but their attendance zoomed.

Boston managed to gain fourth place in 1953-54. From the beginning of the season they were plagued by injuries to key men. Hal Laycoe was the first to fall, then Chevretil broke a leg, Quackenbush fractured an ankle and Schmidt was sidelined for some time. In a summer sale Boston bought Cal Gardner from Chicago, who actually needed forward strength themselves. Then a February trade sent Jerry Toppazzini to the Hawks while the Bruins received Gus Bodnar.

The hapless plight of Chicago became so acute in 1953-54 that rumors spread of their pending withdrawal from the League. The five other teams heard the SOS and plans were laid to help bolster the club. The Hawks secured Jack McIntyre and Ike Hildebrand who had earlier gone to minor affiliates of Boston and Rangers. Kenny Wharram was elevated from Quebec while Lou Jankowski and Pete Conacher were playing full N.H.L. schedules for the first time.

A pessimistic Conn Smythe predicted the Leafs would end in the cellar and they surprised him by grabbing third place. The only rookie in their line-up was fiery Bob Bailey, who teamed as center for Rudy Migay and Eric Nesterenko. Jimmy Morrison was hailed as coming into his own while Ron Stewart's penalty killing caught the eye of new coach King Clancy, who had succeeded Joe Primeau when he retired for business reasons in March.

George Armstrong had shown so many attributes that Conn Smythe, who once vowed that Syl Apps' No. 10 sweater would never again be worn, decided Armstrong was worthy of wearing it. Ted Kennedy was still the team leader and he gave a good display of this on October 24 in a Bruin-Leaf meeting in Toronto. That night he scored the first goal of the game in a flat eight seconds, tying the record of Ron Martin of the New York Americans who

scored in 8 seconds against the Canadiens in New York on December 4, 1932.

For Detroit, who again won the League championship, Earl Reibel was a bonus. With 15 goals and 33 assists to put him in the top ten scorers, the Wings were touting Reibel as the only logical recipient of the Calder Trophy. At 23, he made an excellent partner for Howe and Lindsay. The Wings clinched their sixth straight title with five games remaining in the schedule and could indirectly thank Toronto for some of their good fortune. In their first five trips to the Olympia, the Leafs were shut out, going scoreless there for over 300 minutes.

Montreal Canadiens had a similar Indian sign over the Rangers, who waited until February, 1954, to gain their first Forum win since April 6, 1950. The Canadiens had finally landed Jean Beliveau in the fall, but the high-priced rookie got off to the same sort of start Maurice Richard encountered in his initial year. In early October, Beliveau picked up the first injury of his hockey career, a cracked fibula he received in Chicago. That, plus other mishaps, forced him to miss 26 scheduled games and kept his points to 13 goals and 21 assists. Referring to the broken leg Richard had suffered in his rookie season, Beliveau commented, "If mine turns out like his, this will be really worthwhile." Beliveau was the most-publicized junior player of all time, a giant center who was idolized in Quebec City. He played a year with Quebec Seniors before turning professional with the Canadiens.

President Campbell had fewer fines to levy in this season than he had in some of the others, although Bernie Geoffrion kept him busy. In November the Canadien winger was fined \$250 for charging referee Frank Udvari into the boards. The following month Campbell concluded one of the longest investigations in N.H.L. history and then suspended Geoffrion for 8 games against the Rangers for his part in a stick swinging duel with New York's Ron Murphy on December 20. Murphy, who suffered a fractured jaw in the fracas, was suspended for 5 games.

Fourth-place Boston's 32 victories were the most by a Bruin team since the 1938-39 season, a year they finished in first place. Their 22 victories on home ice were the most since 1929-30 when they won 23 games in the Boston Garden.

Gordie Howe was again the scoring champion with a commanding lead over Maurice Richard. Toronto's Harry Lumley won the Vezina Trophy by a single point over Detroit's Terry Sawchuk. There wasn't much for the last place Hawks to crow about other than Bill Mosienko's 500th point, which he picked up on December 20.

Boston offered scant resistance to Canadiens in their Cup semi-final series and bowed out in four straight. Detroit handled Toronto

almost as swiftly, but needed five games to do the job.

Then there was a titanic struggle between Detroit and Montreal which went to seven games. With slumps and injuries to consider, Irvin had to shake up his team for this series. The Punch Line had gone pointless against Boston while their teammates supplied the scoring power. Then they were held scoreless in the first game against the Wings, but the Rocket later clicked for three goals.

It was in the fifth game of the series that Irvin played his longest hunch. Jacques Plante, who had moved up from Buffalo in February to replace the injured Gerry McNeil, had suddenly lost his playoff touch. Irvin called in the rusty McNeil and apparently suggested he play that night or terminate his career with Canadiens. He responded with a sensational 1-0 demonstration, and the game was won in overtime by Ken Mosdell.

When Detroit won their sixth Stanley Cup on Friday, April 16, in the Olympia it was on the strength of an overtime goal by Tony Leswick, an angle shot which went in off Doug Harvey's left glove. McNeil was inspired all night and Terry Sawchuk's performance was flawless.

1954-55

Trades were a highlight of 1954-55. In May Canadiens gave New York Dick Gamble and the rights to Eddie Dorohoy of Victoria Cougars for Hy Buller, a defenseman.

Tommy Ivan, who had guided Detroit to six championships and three Stanley Cups, was appointed manager of the Black Hawks in July. No one was displaced when Ivan took over since the post had been vacant for some years. Before the season Chicago's Sid Abel bowed out as coach while Frank Eddolls moved behind the bench. Ivan's spot with the Wings was filled by Jimmy Skinner.

Conn Smythe finally gave up on Danny Lewicki who had fluctuated up and down from Pittsburgh, and sold him to the Rangers. Smythe traded Fern Flaman back to Boston for Dave Creighton.

Boston's Johnny Peirson, a consistent 20-goal scorer, decided to retire at the age of 29. He had attended McGill University in Montreal and was about to enter his father-in-law's business.

Gerry McNeil, who had replaced Bill Durnan in Montreal's nets when his nerves forced him into retirement, was quitting for health reasons. Four seasons of facing N.H.L. opponents had strained his nervous temperament to the limit so he stepped aside for calm, colorful Jacques Plante.

Finding someone to fill the void left by the retired Elmer Lach was a big chore for the Canadiens. A leading candidate was Jackie Leclair, a 25-year-old rookie acquired by the Canadiens when they gave Brian Cullen to the Leafs.

The campaign to help the Black Hawks continued in 1954-55,

Toronto's contribution to bolster the team was Dave Creighton and Harry Watson. Montreal supplied Bucky Hollingsworth, Johnny McCormack, Paul Masnick and outstanding rookie Ed Litzenberger. Detroit contributed Metro Prystai, but got back Lorne Davis who had been another addition from Montreal. Others who eventually went to Chicago were Frank Martin, Pete Conacher, Bob Hassard, Ray Timgren, Red Sullivan, Dick Gamble, Ike Hildebrand and Bill Gadaby.

Jim Norris sought a farm club and in January he bought the Buffalo Bisons for \$150,000. That was the first move towards establishing an extensive farm system, something the Black Hawks had never had. The Hawks gave up Bill Gadsby and Pete Conacher to the Rangers in mid-season, much to the dismay of Chicago fans, and received in return Nick Mickoski and Allan Stanley. Stanley had been in and out of a Ranger uniform a year earlier because of the hostile attitude of the New York fans. In less than a month both Stanley and Mickoski were favorites of Hawk supporters.

In January, Frank Selke discussed the aid program and announced that Canadiens would not help out any more in 1954-55. "When we let Eddie Litzenberger go for \$15,000 I made it known to the other clubs that we would not further deplete our strength this season," he stated.

The platoon system of goaltending was getting a grip in the N.H.L. this season as Chicago called up Hank Bassen from Buffalo as a relief man for Al Rollins. In the fall Lorne Worsley won back his netminding job from Johnny Bower who had displaced him in the preceding season. Bower went to Vancouver where a youngster named John Ferguson hung around the team and helped with the sticks. Boston searched for someone to alternate with Sugar Jim Henry and gave Ray Gariepy to Toronto for 20-year-old John Henderson. In January Henderson had the best netminding record in the N.H.L. He lost only three of fourteen games.

The Bruins got a new coach when Milt Schmidt took over from Lynn Patrick. Earlier in the season Schmidt had scored his 229th goal, highest in Boston history. Fern Flaman, originally a Bruin, was brought back into the fold when the Leafs accepted Dave Creighton in exchange during an off season deal. Rookie Don McKenney contributed 22 goals and 20 assists and played for a time with Doug Mohns and Murray Costello, who had been obtained from Chicago in exchange for Lorne Ferguson.

The Rangers took on more color. On October 27, Lou Fontinato was elevated from Vancouver to replace the injured Allan Stanley. In February, Bill Ezinicki joined the Rangers for 15 games, coming up from Vancouver as Rangers sent Jack McLeod and cash in return. Larry Popein, Dean Prentice and Ron Murphy were mixed with other sophomores and rookies. The club made it to fifth place

but didn't come particularly close to gaining the playoff berth they had been aiming for since 1949.

Gordie Howe played an unfamiliar role in 1954-55 when he went into his worst scoring slump in nine years. He started the season fast with 20 goals in his first 37 games, but then only collected four in the next 17 games. In November his linemate, Ted Lindsay, scored the 250th goal of his career. After playing five stalwart seasons in Detroit's goal, Terry Sawchuk was replaced, without consultation, when manager Jack Adams and coach Jimmy Skinner felt the strain of goaltending was affecting Sawchuk's nerves. He was back in the nets a few games later, then forged ahead of his rivals in the Vezina Trophy race. With only five games remaining in the schedule the Wings signed defenseman Larry Hillman, then 18 and the youngest player in the League.

On February 1, Conn Smythe stepped down as general manager of the Maple Leafs and handed the position over to Hap Day, promising he would still "take an interest" in the running of the Gardens. Smythe, then 60, retained the presidency of the team. Toronto's grasp on third place was flimsy the night of March 12 when they lost Tim Horton, one of their better defensemen. Horton suffered a broken leg and a broken jaw in a collision with New York's Bill Gadsby in Maple Leaf Gardens.

Ted Lindsay of Detroit was given a ten day suspension for striking a spectator with his stick in a game in Toronto on January 22. The incident occurred after Eric Nesterenko and Gordie Howe scuffled along the boards and the fan grabbed Howe's stick. As Howe pulled away, the spectator reached over the boards in an effort to hit him. Lindsay, who was 30 to 40 feet away, rushed forward and struck the fan.

Even minus Richard, suspended in March after the action that caused The Riot, the Canadiens were tough playoff opponents as Boston found out when the Montrealers eliminated them in five games. Coach Dick Irvin set a precedent for playoff strategy when he alternated two goaltenders, Plante and Charlie Hodge, in the first two games, which the Canadiens won handily.

The Canadiens actually sent Jim Henry into retirement, a fact he announced after the fourth game in which he sustained a fracture of the upper jaw and cuts over his left eye when hit by a hard shot from Calum MacKay late in the third period. He returned to play out the last few minutes of the game. Henderson was in the nets for the fifth and deciding game.

When the Leafs met the Red Wings in their series they were without Tim Horton. Toronto had the lowest goal production in the League and an indifferent power play. Detroit had no difficulty in winning in the minimum four games.

The seven games between Canadiens and Red Wings were rough,

fast, and without overtime. Montreal lost the first two games on Olympia ice, but tied up the series in Montreal. It was in this series that Canadiens snapped a 15-game record winning streak by Detroit, a string of victories that began on February 27 and continued until April 7.

With two goals in Detroit's 3-1 win, Alex Delvecchio was the hero of the seventh and Cup winning game.

1955-56

In May, 1955, Dick Irvin left Montreal and signed as coach of the Chicago Black Hawks. In replacing Frank Eddolls, whom he had coached as a rookie on the Montreal defense, Irvin said, "We're going to shoot for third place." Irvin was returning to his first N.H.L. club, the one he captained in 1926 when Chicago first entered the League. He was appointed coach in 1929 and then dropped in favor of Godfrey Matheson in 1931-32.

Toe Blake, a 14-year veteran with Canadiens, was named as Irvin's successor on June 8. Blake was Selke's personal choice over Billy Reay and Roger Leger, who had also been candidates. When he officially accepted the job, Blake said one of his greatest ambitions had come true.

Two weeks after Irvin's appointment the Black Hawks sent Gerry Toppazzini, Bucky Hollingworth, Johnny McCormack and Dave Creighton to Detroit for Tony Leswick, Glen Skov, Johnny Wilson and Benny Woit. This was designed to give Irvin the kind of material he needed to mold together a contending team.

Before Detroit had finished bartering they had only 9 players left from their Cup-holding team of last spring. Jack Adams swapped the classy Terry Sawchuk, Vic Stasiuk, Lorne Davis and Marcel Ronin to Boston for Bruin captain Ed Sandford, Real Chevrefils, Norm Corcoran, Warren Godfrey and Gilles Boisvert. Sawchuk was the current Vezina Trophy winner, but had showed nervous strain and Adams was apparently disenchanted with him. Glen Hall, who had subbed briefly in the 1954-55 season, was brought up as Sawchuk's successor.

Sandford's stay with the Wings was brief. The season wasn't a month old before he was shipped to Chicago so Detroit could retrieve Metro Prystai.

A summer change in the New York front office saw Muzz Patrick step up as manager and introduce ex-Ranger Phil Watson as coach. Harry Howell became the club's eighth captain and those close to the scene predicted: "This is Ranger's year." A tragic note was the drowning of Ross Lowe, a 26-year-old center who had previously belonged to Boston and Montreal and was the second highest scorer in the A.H.L. in 1954-55. With Andy Hebenton promoted from Vancouver and producing 24 unexpected goals, plus a healthy pro-

duction from Bathgate, Creighton, Lewicki, Prentice and Murphy, the Rangers clicked for 203 goals and finished third.

Before Toronto began their 70-game schedule, Hap Day handed King Clancy a fighting slogan of "Guts, Glamor and Goals." Billy Harris, a fragile, 20-year-old center from the Toronto junior Marlboros, had been signed as a possible replacement for the retired Ted Kennedy. Dick Duff and Earl Balfour were added. In all, Toronto introduced 16 rookies with 7 gaining permanent berths.

The Red Wings had their worst start since 1938 and slid quickly into the cellar. In a desperation move, Red Kelly was moved to the forward line to inject scoring punch, but only on a temporary basis. With coach Jimmy Skinner juggling his line-up, the Wings came out of their slump with enough power to gain second place, but well behind the Canadiens. Most of Detroit's offensive power was generated by Howe, Lindsay, Delvecchio and Reibel. In October, captain Ted Lindsay surpassed the mark set by Aurel Joliat as the highest scoring left winger, by collecting his 271st goal. He accomplished the feat against the Canadiens but his team lost 2-1. In February Gordie Howe became the third player in N.H.L. history to score 300 goals, thus joining Nels Stewart and Maurice Richard.

For a rookie coach, Toe Blake manipulated Canadiens like a veteran. He had invited 54 men to training camp and retained three rookies—Henri Richard, Claude Provost and Jean-Guy Talbot. Gerry McNeil attempted a comeback, but couldn't displace Jacques Plante. Butch Bouchard, who had announced his retirement, changed his mind and remained on as captain. By mid-February Canadiens had virtually clinched the N.H.L. championship, largely on the goals of Beliveau, Richard, Olmstead and Geoffrion. Between them they amassed 128 regular schedule goals.

The 1955-56 season was not without its fights, but the disturbances were minor compared to some seasons. One of the most astounding incidents was the 22 minutes in penalties picked up by Red Kelly in one period. In Detroit on October 16, Kelly became enraged at Toronto's Eric Nesterenko. Besides a minor and two majors, Kelly drew a misconduct, more penalty minutes than he had served in all his past eight seasons in the League.

The Boston Bruins were pushed into fifth place by the surge of the Rangers, but they were contenders until the finish, ending only two points behind fourth place Toronto. Boston's fortunes rose and fell during this season. Terry Sawchuk was accepted with enthusiasm by Bruin fans. He gained nine shutouts and his presence in a Boston uniform undoubtedly accounted for an increased attendance. But the Bruins slumped so badly that Johnny Peirson, who had retired to go into business, returned to offer his services. He took part in 33 games, scored 11 goals and got 14 assists, which was exceptional

for a man who had been out of the game for more than a season.

Though Chicago finished sixth for the third consecutive year, most experts conceded they were a vastly improved team under Irvin's hand and the coach himself had visions of second place as late as December. The Hawks' downfall could be largely attributed to injuries to key players. The trouble began when defenseman Gus Mortson entered a Boston hospital for emergency surgery and missed several games. Filling in as team captain was Harry Watson, who in turn was replaced by defenseman Lee Fogolin. In Fogolin's initial game as captain he had no "C" on his sweater and, therefore, the officials would not recognize his status. A make-shift job with adhesive tape served for the rest of the game, but when he played his next contest he sported an 18-inch "C"—large enough for the poorest eyes to recognize.

When the season ended the Canadiens held the N.H.L. championship with 100 points and took most of the individual awards. Yet King Clancy, whose Leafs lost to Detroit 4-1 in the Cup semi-finals, predicted the Wings, with Calder Trophy-winner Glen Hall in the nets, would be too strong for Montreal.

The only game Canadiens lost to the Rangers in their semi-final encounter was the second one, playing against rookie netminder Gordie Bell. Bell was 31 and playing in the Quebec League when he got the call to replace Worsley, who was out for the season with torn knee ligaments. In posting a 4-2 win, Bell helped Rangers snatch their first Forum victory since January 30, 1954.

In the same number of games, five, the Canadiens overcame Detroit to win the Stanley Cup for Toe Blake in his rookie season. Having out-scored New York 24-9 in their series, Montreal went on to out-score Detroit 18-9. The only game the Wings won was the third one by a 3-1 score. Red Kelly, who had stopped a Sid Smith shot in the mouth in the final game of the Toronto series, was playing with 12 stitches in his face and minus several teeth. He was also on a liquid diet and was weakened by the loss of 12 pounds. Still, it was Kelly who scored the first Wing goal and rallied his mates to a win.

Beliveau scored the opening goal in what proved to be the final game, his 59th goal of the year counting 12 in the playoffs.

1956-57

In the annual All-Star game preceding the regular season, Rocket Richard, newly-elected captain of the Canadiens, and Ted Lindsay were the goal-scorers as the All-Stars and the Canadiens battled to a 1-1 tie.

In Montreal a fan named Tom Donohue complained to police that thieves had invaded his home and made off with \$385 worth of season tickets for Montreal games. Nothing else was touched. It

was another indication of the soaring popularity of hockey. All season tickets for Montreal games were sold out months before. American hockey fans were able to tune in hockey on their television sets for the first time. CBS-TV began telecasting games on Saturday afternoons from the four American cities in the League, and many predicted that hockey would soon rival baseball and football in popularity among American viewers.

In mid-January Terry Sawchuk was in the news, after an earlier lengthy illness. He quit the Boston hockey club in a dramatic move and went into hiding. The Bruins' Milt Schmidt called up Norm Defelice to replace Sawchuk and denied that he'd called Sawchuk a "quitter." On the day he quit, Sawchuk's name appeared on the mid-season All-Star team. He was suspended by Boston and he threatened to sue four Boston papers for saying nasty things about him. With Sawchuk on the sidelines, Boston bought the rights to Don Simmons from Springfield and Simmons took over from Defelice. The following season saw Sawchuk back with Detroit.

The floundering Toronto Maple Leafs unveiled an 18-year-old rookie named Frank Mahovlich, a 200-pound center called up on a three game basis. Mahovlich, or "Maholovitch" as he was called by a majority of sportscasters, made his big league debut on March 20, 1957, and delighted Toronto fans with his speed and playmaking ability.

Throughout the regular schedule, Detroit again was the class of the League, though they floundered against Boston in the playoffs. On March 17, the Red Wings won their 8th League title in 9 years by beating the Canadiens 2-1.

The playoffs got underway and Rocket Richard, the 30-year-old wizard, scored the winning goal in overtime as the Canadiens ousted the New York Rangers in one semi-final series 4-1.

The Boston Bruins stunned the Detroit Red Wings in the other series, whipping the Wings decisively 4-1 in games. In the finals, it was Richard again who stole the spotlight in game number one. The Rocket scored four times as Montreal took the opener 5-1. After the game, Don Simmons said of Richard's outburst, "It was humiliating." Beliveau's goal in the second game gave Montreal a 1-0 victory and a two-game edge in the series.

It was Geoffrion's turn in game number three. The Boomer scored twice in a 4-2 Montreal victory. Jack Bionda gave Bruin fans a rare chance to cheer when he flattened the Richard brothers, one after the other. Fleming Mackell kept Boston in the series in the fourth game, scoring both goals in a 2-0 Bruin win. Mackell's second goal was into an empty net as Richard scurried back too late, prompting one wag to report, "They've finally found the Rocket's weakness. He can't play goal."

The Canadiens breezed to another 4-1 Cup victory in game num-

ber five. Rookie André Pronovost, along with veterans Dickie Moore, Bernie Geoffrion, Donnie Marshall and Floyd Curry scored for Montreal as the Bruins were beaten 5-1.

Near the end of the season the Toronto team announced plans for next year. Conn Smythe recommended that (1) Howie Meeker be retained as coach (2) King Clancy be retained to "do nothing" again next season and (3) George Armstrong be named the new Leaf captain. Smythe said he'd have a statement about Hap Day's position with the club in a day or two, but Day beat him to the punch by announcing that he was no longer available for further hockey employment with the Leafs.

1957-58

In September of 1957, Senator Hartland Molson announced that he had bought controlling interest in the Canadian Arena Company, which owned and operated the Montreal Forum and the Montreal Canadiens. Senator Molson bought 60 per cent of the shares from Senator Donat Raymond. The price was not announced but was estimated at between \$4,000,000 and \$5,000,000.

The same day, Ted Lindsay, traded in the off-season from Detroit to Chicago, announced that the N.H.L. players' association planned court action against the League "to gain our rights." The suit was for \$3,000,000. The players' association, of which Lindsay was president, had been refused recognition by the League.

Before the season began, Foster Hewitt, the voice of hockey in Canada, handed over the play-by-play job to son Bill, and the CBC announced that the Hot Stove League, long an intermission fixture on radio and television, would be dropped with the coming season.

The schedule was barely underway when Rocket Richard scored his 300th N.H.L. goal. Richard immediately dedicated the puck to the memory of the late Dick Irvin—"The man who taught me everything I know about hockey." Irvin died in May, after 30 consecutive seasons in the N.H.L., 26 as coach and 4 as a player.

Over in Detroit Jack Adams saluted Richard's achievement, then said, "Someday our big number 9, Gordie Howe, will join Richard in the 300 goal circle." At the time, Howe, 29 years old, had 354 goals.

In November the Detroit players handed the players' association a crushing bodycheck when they announced that they were no longer a part of the group.

A personal injury threatened to end Rocket Richard's career in November. His achilles tendon was almost completely severed by Marc Reaume's skate and, at the age of 36, many fans thought he would call it a day.

A big, blond kid named Bobby Hull was the talk of Chicago. Not since Ted Kennedy entered the League had a youngster looked

so talented at such an early age. Hull was 18.

Montreal's Jacques Plante drew attention to himself by wearing a novel plastic face mask in practice sessions.

After the New Year, Rudy Pilous took over the Chicago coaching reins from Tommy Ivan, who carried on as Chicago manager.

A speedster from Fredericton, New Brunswick, Willie O'Ree, became the first Negro player to make the N.H.L. when he performed for Boston against Montreal on January 18, in Boston.

Boom Boom Geoffrion was leading goal-scorer in February with 27, when he collided with Andre Pronovost in practice. Geoffrion suffered a ruptured bowel and underwent a major operation.

With Geoffrion out the Rocket came back from his heel operation in typical Richard fashion. He returned to the Montreal lineup February 20 and scored 2 goals his first time back. He nearly had two more and picked up 2 penalties along the way. Montreal fans were ecstatic.

Despite Billy Reay's predictions, the Toronto Maple Leafs finished last for the first time in history and Wren Blair was rumored to be the man Stafford Smythe wanted to take over as the new Toronto manager.

Dickie Moore played the last five weeks of the season with a cast on his right wrist but he still won the scoring title with 84 points.

It was Montreal's year. The Habs beat Detroit four straight in one semi-final series. Richard, who missed 42 regular season games, pulled his team from a 3-1 deficit in the final period of the fourth game. The Rocket scored a hat trick to pace the Habs to a 4-3 win. It was his 1000th game in the N.H.L.

Boston walloped New York 8-2 in the final game of their best-of-seven series. The Bruins took that one in six games.

In the finals, Boston and Montreal were tied 2-2 in games when Richard cut loose again. He scored one of his patented overtime goals in the fifth game to sink the Bruins. The Rocket had only two shots on goal all night but he connected on the one that counted.

Geoffrion, back in shape after his operation, fired two goals in the sixth game to help the Canadiens to a 5-3 victory and the Stanley Cup.

1958-59

The June, 1958, intra-league draft was one of the most active in years. The Rangers lost five men and were compensated by \$75,000. Chicago took their defenseman Jack Evans. The Canadiens grabbed Danny Lewicki and Dave Creighton. Boston drafted Guy Gendron and Gord Redahl.

To Toronto the Canadiens lost Bert Olmstead and Gerry Wilson. Olmstead was apparently on his way out of the Montreal organiza-

tion since he had been benched in the spring in favor of Ab McDonald of Rochester. Olmstead reported late, due to an assault case in Vancouver, but even at 31 he was a great asset to Toronto.

Chicago took Earl Balfour from Toronto and Al Arbour from Detroit. Boston snared Earl Reibel from Chicago. Toronto finally admitted what had been rumored for weeks; Tod Sloan had been sold outright to Chicago.

In August the Leafs signed 33-year-old goaltender Johnny Bower to a two-year contract. Assistant team manager Punch Imlach, a new addition to the front office, flew to Saskatoon to personally cinch the pact. Staff Smythe predicted: "Bower could be worth ten points to us." Further changes were made in October: defenseman Jim Morrison, long ago destined to move on, was traded to Boston with cash for 32-year-old Allan Stanley, and rookie Carl Brewer signed on his 21st birthday.

The Canadiens were said to have everything for this season; not a weak spot on their roster. Toe Blake looked over the 56 candidates he had in camp and observed, "This is definitely the strongest bunch I've seen in my four years as coach at the camp." Out of the newcomers he selected center Ralph Backstrom, who went on to score 18 goals and 22 assists and grab the Calder Memorial Trophy.

The Black Hawks, coached by Rudy Pilous, considered center ice their weak spot. With Glen Hall in his second season as a Hawk and newly acquired Dollard St. Laurent to go with Arbour, Pilote, Evans and Vasko on defense, the Hawks loomed strong behind the blueline. Up front Chicago had sophomore Bobby Hull, Murray Balfour, Kenny Wharram, Ted Lindsay, Tod Sloan and Glen Skov. As further insurance, left winger Danny Lewicki was purchased from Canadiens for the \$15,000 waiver price.

Phil Watson's Rangers were hopeful that Eddie Shack would be the top rookie in 1958-59. His elevation was designed to help add muscle to a lightweight team, a reason why forward Jimmy Bartlett and defenseman John Hanna were also added. Hard hit by the draft, Rangers were striving to pad out their team.

This was to be a rough season for Sid Abel's Red Wings, who were about to slip to the cellar from the third spot they had held last season, despite Gordie Howe's 32 goals.

Jack Adams called the Boston Bruins "a strong defensive team that could give the Canadiens trouble." They had the "Uke Line" and four players who surpassed the 20-goal mark with Don McKenney leading the way with 32. In goal was Don Simmons surrounded by defensemen Hillman, Flaman, Boivin, Armstrong and Morrison.

On November 21, Punch Imlach was promoted to the rank of general manager of the Leafs, authorized to make whatever changes

were necessary. A week later Billy Reay was fired and Imlach was handling the dual role of manager-coach with Olmstead as a temporary playing-coach.

In a 6-1 win for the Canadiens over the Rangers in late February the biggest mass brawl on Forum ice in years suddenly broke out. The game was held up 15 minute as players engaged in savage fighting. It was ignited by Backstrom and Hanna, followed by Bartlett and Talbot. Then Moore led a brigade from the Canadian bench and Rangers followed suit. Campbell felt the fight was "disgraceful" and was happy the game was not on television.

Two weeks later another brawl erupted, this time in Toronto between the Rangers and the Leafs. It was sparked by Lou Fontinato's cross-check of Larry Regan, a player Leafs had acquired from Boston in January for the \$15,000 waiver price. Then a fan attempted to attack Fontinato in the penalty box. When his teammates dashed to his rescue the Leaf bench emptied after them. The score was 5-0 for Toronto.

In November the Rocket scored the 600th goal of his career, including playoffs, when he connected against the winning Rangers in New York. On January 9, in Montreal he collected his 525th regular schedule goal in a 3-0 win over the Leafs. Meanwhile, his arch rival, Gordie Howe, collected his 400th goal in a December tie in Montreal.

At 37, Richard sustained a broken ankle in January, 1959, which was slow to mend. He was out of action three months, returning without practice during the playoffs. Another star who was put out for the entire season was Chicago's Stan Mikita, who suffered a dislocated shoulder.

Termed the "Cinderella Team," the Leafs battled to the last game of the season to edge their way into the playoffs by a single point over New York. Helping them was Larry Regan, who collected two goals and two assists. Another factor in their five game late stretch winning streak was Gerry Ehman, picked up from Detroit in December.

The disappointed Rangers, who were almost assured of a playoff berth and had sold tickets two weeks earlier, had to refund thousands of dollars. Muzz Patrick and Phil Watson singled out Lorne Worsley as the man most responsible for their team's slump in the last ten days, when they lost six out of seven games.

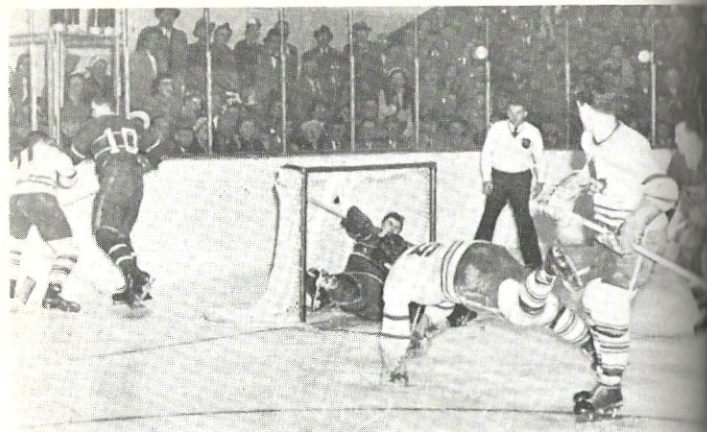
Imlach predicted the Leafs would oust Boston in six games, but it took them seven and some were hectic. Pinch hitter Harry Lumley was pressed into the nets for Boston in the opening game and guided them to a 5-1 victory. Game two went to Boston on a 4-2 score. The Leafs stormed back to tie the series with Ehman as the sparkplug in the third game and Mahovlich the overtime scorer in the fourth. It was Johnny Bower, termed a miracle man, who



Boston's Kraut Line: Bobby Bauer (l.), Milt Schmidt (c.) and Woody Dumart (r.). They broke in in 1936. Bauer played 10 years, Dumart 12 years, and Schmidt 18 years.

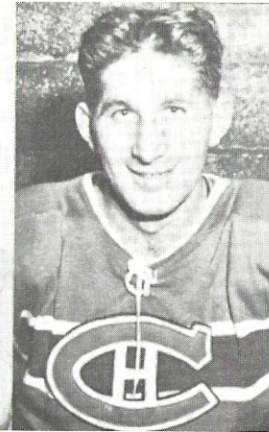
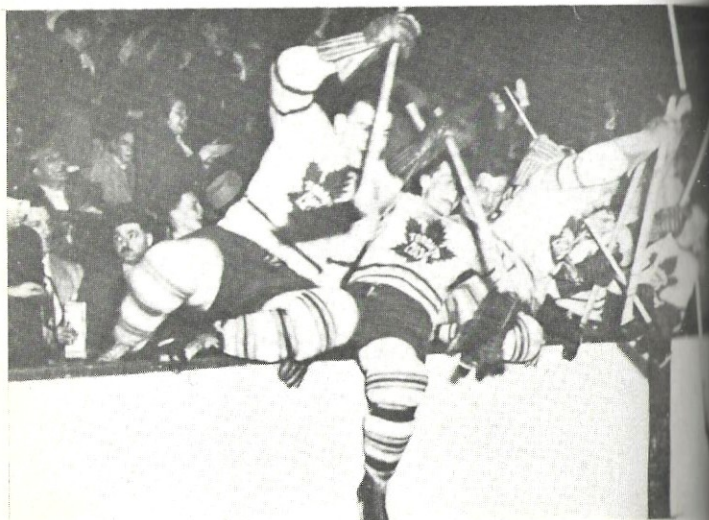
Rocket Richard, upended by leaf defenseman Bill Juzda (not in picture), shattered a panel of glass at Maple Leaf Gardens when the sharp heel of his skate struck the glass. Looking on in amazement is Vic Lynn.





Bill Barilko's last goal. Barilko flies through the air after scoring Stanley Cup winner against Montreal in 1951. Weeks later Barilko lost his life on a fishing trip.

The jubilation of Stanley Cup victory: 1946-47 Leafs leap over boards at final bell. Recognizable from left are Harry Watson, Bill Ezinicki and Cal Gardner. Sad-looking chap with moustache is Camil Des Roches, Montreal's publicity director.



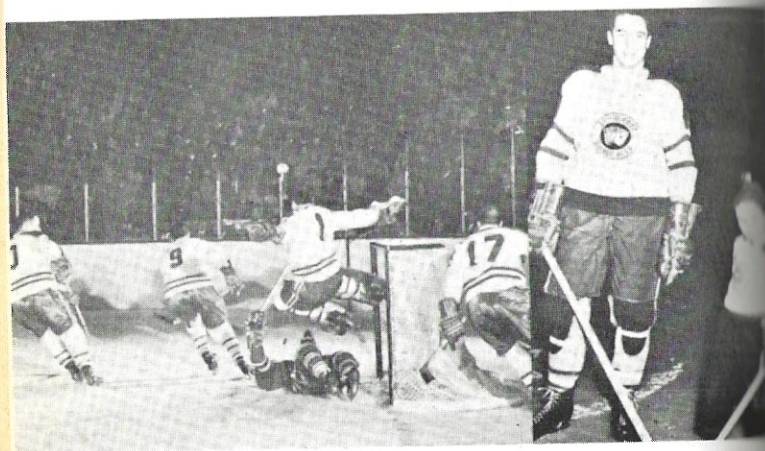
Montreal's Punch Line: Toe Blake, Elmer Lach and Rocket Richard. Montreal almost traded young Richard to N.Y. for Phil Watson. The Rocket became the most explosive player in hockey.

Detroit's Production Line: Gordie Howe, Sid Abel and Ted Lindsay.

Lindsay made a remarkable comeback in 1944-45 after missing four seasons.

Rookie Gordie Howe embarking on a career that would lead to countless records.





Six-time Vezina Trophy winner Jacques Plante leaps to avoid a sliding Leaf as Rocket Richard races after the loose puck.

Jean Beliveau, idolized in Quebec before turning pro, with his coach's son Brent Imlach. Years later they met again in the N.H.L.

The Montreal Canadiens. N.H.L. Stanley Cup Champions 1959-60. Hockey men consider this to be one of the greatest teams ever assembled



Punch Imlach as a player. Toe Blake as a player. Imlach was an excellent senior player but never played in the N.H.L. Both men have outstanding coaching records.

Violence in hockey. Officials break up battle between Toronto's Bob Fulford and Chicago's Glen Skov.

Toronto Telegram





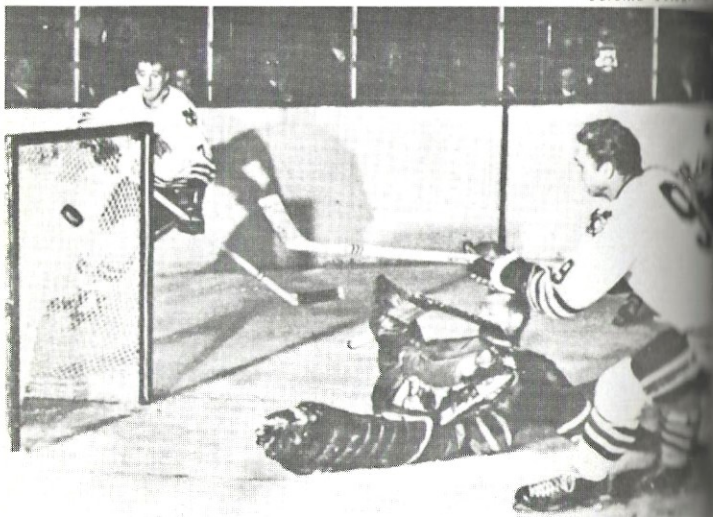
The author and Bill Hewitt watch Bobby Hull (below) from the broadcast gondola at Maple Leaf Gardens.



The Lester Patrick Trophy. Awarded for outstanding contributions to hockey in the United States. Lynn Patrick and Muzz Patrick with Gordie Howe, the 1966-67 winner.

Bobby Hull, Chicago's "Golden Jet" scores again. Hull is the only player in N.H.L. history to score 50 or more goals in three different seasons.

Toronto Telegram



Bobby Orr, Boston's brilliant young defenseman—destined to become an N.H.L. super-star.

Toronto Telegram

Two of the finest left-wingers in hockey, Hull and Mahovlich battle along the boards.

Winged John Ferguson of the Montreal Canadiens. Claude Larose helps Ferguson celebrate a goal against Terry Sawchuk.

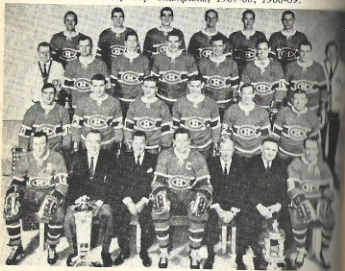
Toronto Telegram





Stan Mikita, Chicago Black Hawks' star center. The only player in N.H.L. history to win three major awards in one season—1966-67.

MONTREAL CANADIENS The Stanley Cup Champions, 1967-68, 1968-69.



A TALE OF TWO CITIES

113

aided the Leafs in their third straight win. "And I was going to bench him in favor of Ed Chadwick," shuddered Imlach. Boston fought back to even the series and force a seventh game, but their injuries made them easier prey for Toronto. With Ehman getting the winner, the Leafs went into the finals on a 3-2 win.

Canadiens took a two game lead over Chicago in their semi-final series. They not only lost the third game 4-2, but lost their star center, Jann Beliveau, with a fractured spine. Ken Mosdell was called up from the Montreal Royals as his replacement. Before the winner, the Leafs fans the Hawks tied up the series. The Canadiens won the fifth and sixth games 4-2 and 5-4.

In the sixth game Junior Langlois of Montreal allegedly tripped the Hawks' Bobby Hull, but referee Red Storey failed to call a penalty. Three fans rushed out of their seats to pour beer on Storey's head and knock him to the ice. Debris littered the ice as the game was held up 25 minutes. Because Storey felt his actions had not been upheld by the League President, who had reportedly criticized him, Storey refused to continue to work as an N.H.L. official. His resignation on April 7 made the front pages.

With the Rocket back, but Beliveau out, the Canadiens took on the Leafs and eliminated them in five games. The score of the opening game was 5-3 for Montreal, but an optimistic Imlach figured the champs were on their way out. His theory was shattered when his team lost 3-1, despite Bower's outstanding display. An overtime goal by Duff in the third game provided Toronto's only victory. A 3-2 Canadian win, followed by a 5-3 decision, permitted Montreal to create history as they won an unprecedented fourth successive Stanley Cup. Thus Toe Blake became the first coach to guide his team to four championships in a row.

1959-60

In 1959-60, most of the dealing was limited to the summer months and the June draft. Toronto obtained Johnny Wilson and rookie Frank Roggeveen from Detroit for Barry Cullen, who had been a Leaf disappointment. In the draft, Boston plucked Autry Erickson from the Hawks, Charlie Burns from Detroit, and Bruce Gamble from the Rangers. No one paid much attention to the Wings snatching Gary Aldcorn from Toronto until he was placed on a line with Gordie Howe and ended up with 22 goals and 29 assists.

New York reportedly got the "cream of the crop" when they traded Brian Cullen and Ian Cushman. This was the season that many changes were needed. In his rookie season the Rangers had counted heavily upon Eddie Shack, but he didn't earn a single vote for the Calder Trophy and was moved to left wing prior to the start of the 1959-60 schedule. With goalie Lorne Worsley in and

out of hot water the Rangers employed more netminders than usual, including Marcel Paille, Al Rollins and Jack McCartan. In November, 1959, with coach Phil Watson in hospital getting treatment for his ulcer, Alf Pike was hired to handle the team and Watson was relegated to look after the Ranger farm system. New York ended the season in last place with 49 points.

According to Leaf players, the new whip cracker of the League was Punch Imlach. A rumor spread in September of a possible team revolt in a dispute over fatter contracts. Imlach commented, "If they strike I'll replace them with players from our minor teams." The gossip faded and the men signed. By December the big disappointment was the dismal play of Frank Mahovlich with only three goals in 22 games. He ended the 70 games with 18 goals and 21 assists.

Big news among goalies was Jacques Plante's decision to wear a face mask of his own design. Coach Toe Blake was at first dubious and then disenchanted by the decision. Lorne Worsley candidly stated he'd never cover his face. In January, after observing Plante over half the schedule, Terry Sawchuk figured the mask wouldn't last. "I wouldn't want to wear one regularly," he stated. Using the best possible means of squashing all the doubters, Plante won the Vezina Trophy.

Managing director Franke Selke found it easy to sign up his employees. Toe Blake inked a three-year coaching assignment while Rocket Richard signed for his 18th season. In November, for the third consecutive winter, Richard was severely injured. This time a flying puck smashed his left cheekbone, putting him out for a month. At 38, some observers felt he was finished, but on April 14, it was captain Richard who accepted the Stanley Cup on Toronto ice from Clarence Campbell.

The Black Hawks did some juggling in 1959-60, moving Bobby Hull from center to left wing and inserting rookies Murray Balfour and Bill Hay into their line-up. Once owned by Montreal, the latter two players had been termed Hab castoffs, a remark which annoyed Frank Selke, who pointed out that Canadiens could only protect 18 men and it was only fair to let two fine prospects go to a club that needed help. Before long the unit of Hull, Balfour and Hay was being hailed as the \$1,000,000 kid line.

Boston ended in fifth place in this season, but one of their players, Bronco Horvath, lost the scoring tide to Bobby Hull by only one point. The 39 goals and 41 assists picked up by Horvath was his greatest N.H.L. output. The Bruins were defensively porous as 241 goals were scored against them. Offensively, their 220 goals ranked them second only to the Canadiens. Despite Boston's defensive weakness coach Milt Schmidt singled out Don Simmons for individual praise and noted that his play had improved when

he began wearing a face mask. In December, Toronto's back-up man, Ed Chadwick, had a mask made.

The Red Wings experienced a mediocre season. For a time Gordie Howe and the entire club slumped. Then on January 13, Howe's 436th goal of his career ran his point total to 945 in regular schedule games to tie Maurice Richard's record. On February 4, manager Jack Adams traded Red Kelly and forward Bill McNeill to the Rangers for Bill Gadsby and Eddie Shack. Angered by the manner in which the trade was engineered, Kelly adamantly refused to go to New York and retired. For personal reasons, McNeill, whose wife had died a few months earlier, also retired rather than take his two-year-old daughter to New York.

By Wednesday, February 10, Red Kelly was a Maple Leaf and defenseman Marc Reaume was a Red Wing. With King Clancy using Irish persuasion, Kelly was induced to come out of retirement and the Wings were convinced they could bolster the hole made on their blueline by acquiring Reaume.

Brawling wasn't the big feature of 1959-60, but there were still explosive incidents. On January 6, fierce stick swinging action broke out between Bobby Hull and Lou Fontinato in a game in New York. Using their sticks as bayonets the duel became so rough that officials and players hesitated to restore order. Also in January, Carl Brewer shoved Toronto's penalty time-keeper Jack Hewit and then pushed him in the face. Brewer was serving a misconduct penalty at the time for swearing at referee Eddie Powers and locking the penalty box door when the period ended so that League officials could not get to their dressing room.

Topping the League with 92 points to Toronto's 79, the Canadiens went into Series "A" against Chicago as heavy favorites, although Blake warned that the Hawks would be tough. With Hull sidelined by a throat infection, Canadiens scored a 4-3 win in the opener. The line of Jean Beliveau, Bernie Geoffrion and Marcel Ronin paced Montreal.

The second game went to Montreal by the same score, but it was accomplished the hard way, in overtime. Doug Harvey pulled off the winning goal and vindicated himself for being the goat on Bill Hay's game-tying goal with 62 seconds left in the third period. A decisive 4-0 victory clinched game three for Montreal with a make-shift line of Ralph Backstrom, Don Marshall and Billy Hicke leading the attack. Infuriated Hawk fans bombarded the ice with wooden boards, sandbags and paper as the disorganized home team failed to get a shot on Plante in the final 10 minutes. A 2-0 win on March 31 swept Chicago aside and thrust Montreal into the finals.

The Leaf-Detroit semi-final series opened on March 23, with goals by Gordie Howe and Len (Comet) Haley providing a 2-1

win for Detroit. Toronto was determined to shadow Howe with the tenacious Bert Olmstead, but Abel juggled his ace free and had him oppose Frank Mahovlich. Praising Abel's strategy, Jack Adams chortled, "That was the key move of the game as far as I'm concerned."

With Larry Regan providing the spark, game two went to the Leafs by a 4-2 score. The incentive that spurred the team was the \$1,250 lying in the middle of the dressing room floor after the team's pre-game warm-up. Put there by the psychology-conscious Imlach, there was a message on the dressing room blackboard which read: "Take a good look at the center of the floor. This represents the difference between winning and losing."

Thoughts of the loot may have carried over to the next night in Detroit when the game went into three overtime periods before Frank Mahovlich scored his second goal of the night in a 5-4 victory. Playing a big part in the series against his old mates, Red Kelly set up the winning goals in the second and third games. The Wings evened the series in game four on a goal from Jerry Melnyk in overtime, with Toronto's Ron Stewart in the penalty box.

The fast skating, brutal checking fifth game ended with Toronto winning 5-4 and the hero was defenseman Allan Stanley, who cut loose with two goals and assisted on two others. Stanley had scored only 3 goals in 40 previous Cup games. Overcoming a 2-1 deficit going into the third period, Toronto then ousted Detroit from the playoffs with a 4-2 win. It was Pulford who paced them with two goals, but Frank Mahovlich who scored the winner.

With the Leafs all healthy and riding on the crest of Johnny Bower's classy goaltending, they met the Canadiens, supposedly less formidable because Beliveau, Bonin and Harvey were hobbling. A 3-0 shutout for Montreal was the result of the opener as Henri Richard picked up a goal and two assists.

Using strong defensive tactics in game two, Canadiens edged the Leafs 2-1 in a dull contest. Then they came up with a 5-2 win in the third game. Phil Goyette collected two goals, the aging Rocket scored his first goal of the playoffs, and Henri Richard and Don Marshall completed the scoring.

Imlach had hoped the Leafs might come back, but a resounding 4-0 whacking knocked them out of contention and gave the Canadiens their fifth consecutive Stanley Cup. This marked the second time that a club swept to the Cup in eight straight games. Detroit did it back in 1952.

THE MONEY YEARS

1960-1967

Though the expanded N.H.L. did not become a reality until the 1967-68 season, much talk and behind-the-scenes manoeuvring took place during the sixties. Clarence Campbell persistently squashed expansion rumors, which most often involved Los Angeles and San Francisco, but it was only a matter of time before money talked. Television revenue and the upsurge in attendance throughout the League, setting new records year after year, could not go unnoticed. Nor could big offers such as \$1,000,000 for Mahovlich, made by Chicago's Jim Norris in 1962, or other big money deals indicating the prosperity of the clubs.

Finally, formal discussions about expansion started in 1965, and on February 8, 1966, Clarence Campbell announced that the following centers would have teams: Los Angeles, San Francisco, St. Louis, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, and Minnesota. Acceptance of Jack Kent Cooke's Los Angeles bid was unexpected, as was the inclusion of St. Louis, which had made no formal application. The omission of Vancouver, which rankled many Canadians, was excused on the grounds that Vancouver would add no new television audience. Vancouver's bid for a franchise was also said to be poorly prepared.

The cost of each franchise was \$2,000,000, payable to each old club for which the new members would get 20 players each from the old clubs.

Even before the draft of players, covered in the conclusion the new clubs began in 1966 to line up front office men. The St. Louis Blues signed the proven Lynn Patrick as general manager and Jimmy Bowman as coach. Minnesota, operating out of Minneapolis, hired Wren Blair as manager-coach, who quickly appointed Johnny Mariucci as director of player development, minor and amateur hockey being very strong in Minnesota. The Philadelphia Flyers signed Bud Poile as manager and Keith Allen as coach, the Pittsburgh Penguins hired Jack Riley with Red Sullivan as coach.

San Francisco and Los Angeles made no final arrangements in this period.

For four out of the first seven seasons of the sixties, the Montreal Canadiens finished on top of the League, continuing their dominance of the late 50's despite the retirement of Rocket Richard. In the Stanley Cup playoffs they did not fare as well, winning only in 1964-65 and 1965-66, the Toronto Maple Leafs taking the rest, except for a 1960-61 upset by Chicago.

These were years of team play, with players of each club vying for scoring honors and defensive laurels, but surely one star led the rest: Bobby Hull of Chicago. Hull had the most goals of any player for 1961-62, 1963-64, 1965-66, 1966-67, including a record breaking 50 in 1961-62 and the all-time high of 54 in the 1965-66 season.

Howe continued his amazing career, notching his 600th N.H.L. goal in 1965, winning the new Lester Patrick Award in 1966 to add to his trophy room, and being chosen for every All-Star team of the period.

1960-61

The Silver Fox of hockey, Lester Patrick, died on June 1, 1960, in a Victoria, B.C. hospital at the age of 76. Patrick ran the gamut of hockey from player, coach and manager to the vice-presidency of Madison Square Garden in his long career with the Rangers. At the time of his death his younger son, Muzz, was vice-president and general manager of the Rangers while Lynn held a similar position with the Boston Bruins.

After the June draft meeting in Montreal there was the usual changing of team sweaters for a number of players. Boston took two minor league defensemen, Ted Green and Tom Thurlby, plus forward Jimmy Bartlett. Parker MacDonald was drafted by Detroit while Toronto grabbed Guy Rousseau and defenseman Larry Hillman. Canadiens lost several minor league players, but grossed \$209,000 in the shuffling.

Detroit traded Jim Morrison to Chicago for Howie Glover and a day later Morrison was drafted by Rangers, who also claimed Billy McNeill and Ted Hampson. Montreal sent Ab McDonald to the Hawks for Glen Skov, Terry Gray and cash. In an involved scheme, Bob Courcy, Cec Hoekstra and Reg Fleming were allowed to leave the Canadian chain and go to Chicago.

In July, with 14 consecutive seasons behind him, left-winger Ted Lindsay of the Hawks announced his retirement. He had participated in 999 League games and set a record for left-wingers with 365 goals. His assists totaled 458. During his career he had served 1,623 minutes in penalties.

The famous Rocket Richard debated whether or not to attempt

a 49th season with Canadiens. He was out of condition, slightly overweight and had been much injured. On September 15, Richard regrettably announced his decision to retire and become Montreal's goodwill ambassador. He had set 17 records, played in 978 League games and 133 playoff contests. For 16 consecutive campaigns he was selected on one of the two All-Star teams. Only one achievement eluded him; he never won the N.H.L. scoring championship.

Veteran Bert Olmstead and defenseman Tim Horton were hold-overs for Toronto. Forward Johnny Wilson asked to be traded when he balked at demotion to the minors. He was concerned because his iron man record of having played in 580 straight League games would be broken. Dick Duff also differed with Imlach over salary and became the last Leaf to sign. A November trade saw Toronto send Wilson and Pat Hannigan to Rangers for Eddie Shack, a brilliant junior who was heretofore mediocre in the N.H.L. It was an amiable exchange. Shack wanted to escape New York; Wilson and Hannigan wanted regular work.

Injuries played havoc with all teams in 1960-61. For Toronto, only Frank Mahovlich, Bob Baun and rookie Dave Keon played the full schedule. Out of the entire League only 21 players dressed for all 70 games. Chicago's valuable Scooter Line of Kenny Wharram, Ab McDonald and Stan Mikita was broken up when Wharram sustained a fractured jaw. Toe Blake lamented that his Canadian roster was never intact. New York got along without Lorne Worsley and Lou Fontinato.

Toronto went through three goalies via the injury route, Bower, Gerry McNamara, and Cesare Maniago. Pulford, Allan Stanley, Red Kelly, Eddie Shack and George Armstrong gave Imlach plenty of lineup miseries.

Toronto and Montreal dominated the headlines for two reasons. They battled to the season's end for the League championship, which the Canadiens won by two points. Then there was an individual scoring duel between Frank Mahovlich and Bernie Geoffrion which was not immediately evident since another Canadian, Dickie Moore, was leading the pack with 21 goals in November. Moore eventually finished with 35.

Helped by a fantastic 18 goals in 11 games, Geoffrion scored his 30th goal in the Montreal Forum on March 16 against Toronto's Cesare Maniago while rival Mahovlich went pointless. The fans thundered their approval as Geoffrion joined the Rocket's elite circle and garnered the scoring title with 95 points over teammate Beliveau's 90 and Mahovlich's 84.

Ten years earlier Geoffrion had vowed to his bride, the former Marlene Morenz: "Someday, I'll score more goals than your father did." On December 7, 1960, in Maple Leaf Gardens, he rapped in two goals—his 270th and 271st—which respectively tied and sur-

passed the goal output of Howie Morenz.

Detroit opened their first season in 15 years without Gordie Howe, who had been injured in the All-Star game in Montreal. But their big gun recuperated quickly and on December 1, in a game against Boston at Detroit he boosted his total points (including playoffs) to 1,093, two more than the record once held by Maurice Richard.

Brawls, threats and fines played a major part of the 1960-61 season as the League raked in money from the offenders. An early October game between Boston and Detroit was delayed 10 minutes by a wild, swinging free-for-all. On October 19, Montreal charged that Mahovlich had deliberately shot a puck at Henri Richard's eye. In another Montreal-Toronto encounter, on December 1, Henri Richard, who scored with goals and punches, collected 29 minutes in penalties and a \$50 fine. Punch Imlach openly taunted referee Frank Udvari for "The worst officiating I've ever seen since I came to the N.H.L." In February referee Eddie Powers was hit by a puck after calling a disputed goal for the Leafs.

A brawl in January between Toronto and New York ended with defenseman Lou Fontinato in hospital for surgery to close a deep skate gash. It was alleged he had been kicked by a Leaf player. The main bout was between Fontinato and Bert Olmstead. More hostilities ensued when Olmstead impeded Fontinato's departure from the penalty box, which quickly involved players from both benches.

One of the worst fights of 1960-61 erupted on Toronto ice when the Hawks and Leafs clashed in mid-March. This one started when Pilote hit Shack with his stick, and again both benches were cleared. Referee Udvari levied \$725 in fines in what was conceded to be the wildest brawl since the December, 1953, battle between the Leafs and the Canadiens. In unusual procedure, four policemen stepped on the ice to separate combatants.

It was a bleak season for Boston, who ended in the cellar with only 46 points. Both coach Milt Schmidt and manager Lynn Patrick denied rumors that their jobs were insecure. To spread scoring punch the Uke Line of Vic Stasiuk, Johnny Bucyk and Bronco Horvath was broken up in December. A month later it was permanently disrupted when Stasiuk and Leo Labine went to Detroit for Murray Oliver, Gary Aldcorn and Tom McCarthy.

The plight of the fifth place Rangers was not much better. Though general manager Muzz Patrick denied rumors that the team rebelled over the retention of Alf Pike as coach for 1961-62, Pike was fired in March.

The opening game of Series "A" semi-finals between Montreal and Chicago saw the Canadiens make a strong comeback to win 6-3, but three of their players, Bill Hicke, Don Marshall and Jean

Belliveau, were injured. Montreal representatives cried "dirty hockey."

With Ed Litzenberger breaking up the game late in the third period the Hawks tied up the series on a 4-3 win played under less violent circumstances.

A marathon third game which went into three overtime sessions was won by Chicago on Murray Balfour's backhand shot. Coach Blake's temper sizzled so hotly over an injury to Geoffrion and the officiating of Dalt McArthur that he took a swing at the referee. His rash action cost him \$2,000.

Firing 60 shots at goalie Glen Hall, 52 of them in the first two periods, the Canadiens romped to a 5-2 victory and evened the series.

The Hawks came back with a pair of shutouts and eliminated the champion Canadiens in six games. In a desperate effort to get into the final game, Geoffrion disregarded medical orders and personally removed the cast from his injured knee.

Canadien manager Frank Selke had accolades for Glen Hall, whom he sought out to congratulate. Maurice Richard termed the series the dirtiest he had ever witnessed.

Series "B" between Toronto and Detroit went five games before Toronto was ousted. The only Leaf win was a 3-2 overtime decision on George Armstrong's goal. The Wings had the embarrassment of having Howie Young score on his own goalie and there was rugged hitting.

An all-American final brought hockey fever to Chicago as fans jammed LaSalle Street lining up for tickets. The opener went to Chicago 3-2, a win they salvaged after holding a 3-0 first period lead. Sawchuk was injured early in the game and had to be replaced by Hank Bassen.

With Howe shadowing Hull Detroit won the second game 3-1. Adams beefed about the refereeing. Game three went to Chicago 3-1 after the Hawks were instructed to use their weight. Coach Pilous also told them to get rid of their "Howe complex."

True to form, Detroit came back to win game four 2-1 and dead-end the series again. Tommy Ivan and Pilous made remarks about the officiating which cost them fines of \$300 and \$200 respectively.

The last two games went to the Hawks 6-3 and 5-1 and the Stanley Cup went to Chicago for the first time since 1937-38.

1961-62

A long awaited hockey dream came true on August 26, 1961, when Prime Minister John Diefenbaker formally opened the new \$500,000 International Hockey Hall of Fame at the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto. On the opening day, which saw the captains of the six teams raise their club pennants on flag poles,

the new building boasted 89 members, 43 still living.

One of Montreal's greatest defensemen, Doug Harvey, signed a three-year contract as playing-coach of the New York Rangers on May 31. At 36, he became the League's youngest coach and reportedly received an \$81,000 contract. As compensation for releasing Harvey to Rangers the Canadiens received defenseman Lou Fontinato.

There was plenty of action at the annual June draft as the Canadiens took Cesare Maniago from the Leafs for the \$20,000 waiver fee. Then they sent defenseman Junior Langlois to the Rangers for defenseman John Hanna. Bill Gadsby, 34, was traded to Detroit by New York for defenseman Les Hunt.

With Phil Watson having signed as Boston's new coach, Bronco Horvath was up for grabs because Watson regarded him as a moaner. The Hawks took Horvath while the Bruins claimed Earl Balfour from Chicago. Boston also acquired Pat Stapleton and Orland Kurtenbach. The Hawks traded captain Ed Litzenberger to Detroit for Gerry Melnyk. Al Arbour was picked up by the Leafs when the Hawks left him unprotected.

Jean Beliveau, newly elected Canadian captain, suffered a knee injury in an exhibition game which put him out of action for a month. Toronto's Larry Hillman was shelved with a dislocated shoulder which almost ruined his hockey career, and the injured Bert Olmstead was assigned to mold a power play for the Leafs.

Under Phil Watson's handling the Boston Bruins floundered all season, winning only 15 games and ending the season with a pitiful 38 points. They struggled along with Don Head, Bruce Gamble and Ed Chadwick allowing a whopping 306 goals.

Toronto ended second with a ten-point lead over Chicago, with Mahovlich far off his pace of the previous schedule, scoring 33 goals in 70 games.

Chicago's Bobby Hull went on a goal scoring rampage that netted him 50 goals in 66 games. At 23, and in his fifth N.H.L. season, Hull's record-tying goal came in a 4-1 defeat of the Hawks by the Rangers in New York on March 25, 1962. It was the last game of the schedule and tied him with Andy Bathgate of the Rangers for the scoring title. The League awarded them each \$1,000, but gave the Art Ross Trophy to Hull, since he had more goals than Bathgate.

Though the Canadiens took the League championship with a comfortable 13-point margin there was grumbling that the team wasn't as formidable as in the past. They were the highest scoring team in the League and allowed so few goals behind agile Jacques Plante that he won the Vezina Trophy. They also had rookie Bobby Rousseau, a speedy right-winger, who took the Calder Trophy that season.

In New York, rookie coach Doug Harvey got 26 wins out of his Rangers and took the last playoff berth. Besides coaching, Harvey contributed 6 goals and 24 assists to the cause. But he had his troubles. The club lost ten games in a row before he pulled them out of their slump. Camille Henry was hospitalized by nerves and the team had a big weakness at center ice. Their bid for Toronto's Billy Harris failed. On the bright side, Harvey's perfect passes aided the scoring of Bathgate, and the team was setting a torrid pace at the box office.

The fourth-place Red Wings took New York to the wire in the playoff race and ended only four points behind them. Ed Litzenberger, whom they had obtained from Chicago in the summer, went to the Leafs in January on waivers. He had scored only 2 goals in 27 games for Detroit. Alex Delvecchio was enjoying his best N.H.L. season. Hank Bassen was a competent back-up man for Sawchuk while Gadsby and Stasiuk added a steadying influence. Often described as both an asset and liability was defenseman Howie Young, who stayed in the line-up for 31 games.

This was the campaign in which Gordie Howe collected his 500th regular season goal, a feat he accomplished on March 14 in New York. In the preceding November he took part in his 1,000th N.H.L. game. Not a bad clip for a player often referred to as elderly.

By guarding Chicago's nets for the full 1961-62 schedule, Glen Hall, known as "Mr. Hockey," kept intact his iron man record of not having missed a game since he broke into the N.H.L. as Detroit's regular goalie in 1955-56.

Brawls were less prevalent in this schedule, but injuries were numerous. Lorne Worsley suffered a pre-season concussion. Tom Johnson almost lost an eye when struck by teammate Lou Fontinato's stick in a game in Toronto. Bert Olmstead sustained a broken shoulder while Pierre Pilote had a shoulder separation. All season players from various teams popped in and out of hospital.

In November, 1961, Conn Smythe, the man who built Maple Leaf Gardens, officially stepped aside to be succeeded by his son, Stafford, as president. The elder Smythe remained as chairman of the board of directors. To purchase majority control of the Gardens, Stafford Smythe, John Bassett and Harold Ballard turned over a cheque for \$2,000,000 to Conn Smythe. Ballard replaced the younger Smythe as chairman of the Leafs' hockey committee.

Red Kelly, having made a successful conversion from Detroit's defense to Toronto's forward line, announced on March 14 that he would stand for the Liberal nomination of the Toronto riding of York West at the conclusion of the hockey season. He ultimately won the seat and effectively combined hockey with politics.

The odds were with Montreal and Toronto to knock out their

opponents in the semi-finals. The Leafs, facing the Rangers who weren't assured of a playoff berth until the 69th game of the schedule, ran into tough opposition and took six games to eliminate New York. Worsley was superb in goal for the Rangers, especially in the fifth game. Tied 2-2 at the end of regulation time, the game went into two overtime periods before Kelly snared the puck from under the prostrate Worsley and fired in the winner. Worsley later conceded that moment to be his most heartbreaking experience in hockey. When he skated out as the game's second star behind Kelly, the goalie received a standing ovation. He had kicked out 56 shots in 84 minutes.

The series between the Canadiens and the Hawks was taken 4-1 by the Hawks, after dropping the first two. Only a few years back the Canadiens were shipping players to Chicago to build up the Hawks. Now they were victims of their own generosity.

Toronto were 8-7 favorites to take the champion Hawks in the Cup finals. With energetic forechecking and precision play, Toronto won the first game 4-1 and shaded Chicago 3-2 in the second game, which they never appeared in serious danger of losing.

It was a different band of Hawk players who greeted the Leafs in Chicago for the third and fourth games. With Mikita the most prominent Hawk forward, the Leaf team was downed 3-0 in the third encounter. Game four was all Chicago's as Hull and Fleming looked after all the goals in a 4-1 win. A Hull shot caused Bower to pull a groin muscle in the first period and sent him into a Chicago hospital.

In this see-saw series Toronto recaptured the lead with a convincing 8-4 win paced by Bobby Pulford's three goals. With Don Simmons in goal, 14,129 fans chanting "Go, Leafs, Go," and Eddie Powers refereeing with a firm hand, the game became wide open with end to end rushes.

On April 22, Toronto dethroned the Hawks in Chicago Stadium with Dick Duff scoring the winning goal in a 2-1 decision. For the first time in eleven years the Stanley Cup returned to Toronto, after a record 87 penalties in six games. Leaf defenseman Tim Horton established a record by gathering 12 assists in 13 playoff games, the most ever picked up by a rearguard.

1962-63

A long familiar figure was missing from the scene when the 1962-63 schedule opened. After 35 years with Detroit as coach and general manager, Jack Adams resigned in April, 1962, to become President of the Central Professional Hockey League.

In June, when Jim Norris of the Black Hawks was among the 11 new additions to the Hockey Hall of Fame, history was made with the first father-and-son combination gaining entry. Several years

earlier Jim Norris Sr. was entered in the Builders' section.

A belated presentation was made to Conn Smythe, who had retired in February, 1962, as an N.H.L. governor after 35 years' service. With Senator Hartland Molson of the Canadiens hosting a dinner party, Smythe was presented with a silver tray and made an honorary life governor, an honor never before bestowed upon anyone.

In July Doug Harvey emphatically stated he was through as New York's playing-coach in order to spend more time with his family. He signed a lucrative one season contract as a player, leaving Muzz Patrick in the double role of manager-coach. On December 28, Red Sullivan was named New York's coach, but it was too late for Sullivan to get the Rangers into the playoffs.

The June draft saw players and money tossed around like confetti. Between Boston and Detroit, who failed to make the playoffs the previous season, a total of \$180,000 was spent to obtain new blood. Boston got Spencer and Gendron from New York, and picked up Detroit's Godfrey, plus goalies Johnston and Parreault. Detroit traded Lunde and McKenzie to Chicago for Doug Barkley, whom they began touting as a possible Calder trophy winner, an honor eventually taken by Toronto's Kent Douglas, another defenseman picked up from Springfield for five players.

And Abel, who had inherited Jack Adams' job as general manager of the Wings, drafted Alex Faulkner and Floyd Smith. Then he removed the "C" from Gordie Howe's sweater, made Alex Delvecchio captain, and appointed Howe assistant coach. Terry Harper, who had gone maskless for eleven seasons, decided to wear a face protector in 1962-63.

It came as something of a surprise when Toe Blake turned down Montreal's offer of a three-year coaching contract and opted for a one-year pact to launch his eighth coaching season. The only trade was defenseman Al McNeil to Chicago for forward Wayne Hicks. By fall, the Canadiens were picked as the team to beat. Actually, the Montrealers missed first place by three points to Toronto and were a mere two points behind Chicago, despite Jacques Plante's asthma attacks, Tom Johnson's fractured backbone, which put him out for the year, and Lou Fontinato's laceration and fracture of the neck, which ended his career. Replacements for the injured defensemen were Terry Harper and Jacques Laperriere, who were hailed as promising but too green for immediate stardom.

It wasn't an entirely dismal season for the Canadiens, since Henri Richard emerged as the League's superlative playmaker with 30 assists, and center Jean Beliveau became the sixth highest scorer of all time in January when he hit the 300-goal mark.

The Boston Bruins, who had been in the cellar the season before, had only one win in fourteen games when Phil Watson was fired and Milt Schmidt took over as coach. Though they didn't make the playoffs, the Bruins were strengthened by Dean Prentice from the Rangers for center Don McKenney, and got good support from Tommy Williams of Duluth, Minnesota, the first U.S. player to really stick in the N.H.L. since Frank Brimsek made goaltending headlines.

This was a particularly tough season on netminders. Sawchuk began the season in brilliant form and shook off many minor hurts before three tendons were slashed in his left hand in January, taking two months to heal.

The amazing "iron-man" record of goaltender Glen Hall was brought to an end in November when he left the net suffering from a strained ligament in his back. He had participated in 503 consecutive games, 553 if the playoffs were counted, before Denis DeJordy took over. Hall recovered to win the Vezina Trophy for the season.

New York's Lorne Worsley had troubles of a different sort. He was called upon to stop 269 shots in the span of 6 games.

Except for two outbursts, there was a decided lack of unnecessary brawling during the schedule. In October Montreal's Gilles Tremblay and Chicago's Reg Fleming engaged in a stick swinging duel. Both were suspended for three games which meant a pay loss of approximately \$750 each. On March 5, when the Canadiens played at Detroit, right-winger Bernie Geoffrion found it didn't pay to hurl his stick and gloves at referee Vern Buffey. President Campbell suspended him for five games, which meant a financial loss of about \$2,000.

In the playoffs, series "A" between Toronto and Montreal was won by the Leafs in five games against the weakened Canadiens.

When Chicago took the first two games from Detroit on Chicago Stadium ice they were running true to form. With a stranglehold on the series how could they miss? They were powerful and well balanced, but the one big worry was Bobby Hull's health after an indifferent season. He had a shoulder injury which almost kept him out of the opening game, and in the second meeting suffered a broken nose and a 10-stitch cut on the face. But Hull missed only one of the next four games, which the Wings won to sweep into the finals against Toronto. By scoring five goals in a losing cause, three of them in the last game, Hull showed bravery beyond the call of duty.

Toronto took care of Detroit in five games, despite the efforts of Howe, the year's top scorer, and never appeared in serious danger. They won the first two games, dropped the next, then easily took the last two. It was not a particularly exciting series.

1963-64

Dissatisfied with the way the Black Hawks blew their chance of winning the N.H.L. title in 1962-63, management fired 48-year-old Rudy Pilous, coach since January 4, 1958. Billy Reay, 44, his successor, had performed with the Canadiens, coached Toronto, and was on a two-year coaching contract with the Buffalo Bisons of the A.H.L. when the announcement was made.

The summer trade that caught hockey fans napping was the swap between the Rangers and the Canadiens: Lorne Worsley, along with Dave Balon, Leon Rochefort and Len Ronson, went to Montreal for Jacques Plante, Don Marshall and Phil Goyette.

In the June draft Boston picked up Tom Johnson of Canadiens and New York's Andy Hebenton. For problem player Howie Young the Red Wings obtained from Chicago goalie Roger Crozier and defenseman Ron Ingram. The Leafs brought up Jim Pappin from Rochester and he played 50 games for the Toronto club.

A renovation was made to the N.H.L. waiver rule in October which put coaches in the driver's seat and players on the spot. It was decided that a player could be demoted at any time and waivers were necessary only if the player was not on the 20-man protected list submitted at the June meetings.

The early season experts eyed the Black Hawks as the team to lead on the grounds of balance and depth, with Hall in the goal and Hull's offensive punch.

The highest rating given the Montreal Canadiens was fourth place. Dickie Moore, a left-winger with 12 years of exceptional play, retired. But Toe Blake had Balon, Bryan Watson and enforcer John Ferguson obtained earlier from Cleveland to add muscle. Worsley had been slated as the regular goalie, but his job through injury to Charlie Hodge, who kept it for 62 games and won the Vezina Trophy. Staging a race with the Hawks, the Canadiens took the League title by one point.

This was the season the Rangers planned to go places. Bathgate was slated for a hot scoring year. Plante was going to lead them out of the cellar and Harvey was back on the blue-line. But Harvey was given his outright release after 14 playing years while Bathgate was in the worst slump of his N.H.L. career.

Since Toronto had been making overtures for Bathgate for a number of seasons this was an auspicious time for them to make a pitch. Before the February 23 trading deadline arrived, the deal was concluded. Dick Duff, Bob Nevin, Arnie Brown, Rod Lang and Bill Collins were sent to New York while Don McKenney and Bathgate became Leafs.

Frank Imlach tended to scoff at suggestions that he'd just taken a short cut to the Stanley Cup. Tongue in cheek, he claimed if he

was that clairvoyant he'd snare the Cup every spring. The Leafs did go on to win the Cup, and the presence of the two former Rangers helped a great deal. The transaction was not of instant value to New York, who ended the season in fifth place.

The 1963-64 season was a year for players to hit the 200 goal plateau as Dean Prentice, George Armstrong, Camille Henry, Bobby Hull and Frank Mahovlich all joined that circle.

It was also the season for Hull to score the 400th point of his seven year career. Gordie Howe was in the news again, not that he's often out of it. He tied Maurice Richard's 544 goal record on October 28 in the Detroit Olympia against Worsley of the Canadiens. On November 10, again in the Olympia against Montreal, Howe sank goal 545 to become the all-time scoring champion.

Some other records that were tied or established included Terry Sawchuk's participation in his 804th game. It broke by one game the mark previously held by Harry Lumley. Then on January 18, Sawchuk picked up his 95th shutout in a 2-0 win over Montreal, a feat no other goalie could match.

It was on February 12, 1964, that Bernie Geoffrion scored two goals against the Leafs in Montreal and tied Ted Lindsay as the third highest goal scorer in history at that time. Each had 363 goals to his credit.

The record Boston's Andy Hebenton set on December 4 against the Black Hawks dealt in durability rather than goal scoring. At 34, he took part in his 581st straight N.H.L. game, dethroning Johnny Wilson, who had participated in 580 consecutive games.

It seems that Canadiens' players have a penchant for scoring five goals in one game. Maurice Richard did it first, then Bernie Geoffrion matched him, and on February 1 Bobby Rousseau did it against Detroit.

One item that deserves mention happened to the last-place Boston Bruins. Their greatest moment took place one January night in Toronto when they scored their first goal of the game at 53 seconds of the opening period, then sank their last one at 15:37 of the last period. Boston 11, Toronto 0. Toronto fans were at first surprised, then appalled, and finally converted to Bruin rooters.

In trying to curb the general brawling prevalent this season, President Campbell aimed hard at the pocketbook and by the middle of the season had garnered \$5,000 in fines. For example, for failing to control their men, coaches Imlach and Reay were fined \$1,000 while 22 players paid fines of \$100 each after a December Leaf-Hawk fight in Chicago.

The semi-final series between the third-place Leafs and the first-place Canadiens was a struggle to the finish with Toronto coming out on top after 7 games. The opener went to Montreal

with Charlie Hodge and Boom Boom Geoffrion leading the way. It took a couple of veterans, Johnny Bower and Red Kelly, to reverse procedure in the second meeting, squeaking out a 2-1 victory for Toronto. In this game Gilles Tremblay of Montreal suffered a broken ankle.

That's how the series continued, each club winning, then losing, until Toronto scored a 3-1 decision to eliminate Montreal from the playoffs.

The fourth-place Red Wings took seven games to dispose of the second-place Black Hawks and they did it the hard way, having to call upon 21-year-old Bob Champoux, a greenhorn netminder, when Sawchuk was hurt in the second game. Howe and Ullman accounted for 11 of Detroit's 24 goals in the series.

This was a spring of long playoff series since the Leafs and Wings also went the limit of seven games in the final. Toronto grabbed the lead by winning the opener 3-2, but Detroit hustled back to take the next two games. It was newcomer Andy Bathgate who scored the winning goal for Toronto in game four to even the series. Then the determined Wings clicked for a 2-1 victory.

The sixth game was stacked with drama. Defenseman Bob Baun was taken from the ice on a stretcher with an injured ankle and there was doubt that he'd return. But when the game went into overtime Baun was the hero who scored the sudden-death goal that saved Toronto from oblivion.

With Brewer, Baun and Kelly all requiring needles to deaden pain, the Leafs handed Detroit a decisive 4-0 defeat in the seventh game to win their third consecutive Stanley Cup.

Only after the series would Baun consent to have his ankle x-rayed and, as he suspected, the pictures revealed a cracked ankle bone.

1964-65

The 1964-65 schedule brought about some sweeping changes in the N.H.L. It was a season packed with sadness, surprises and optimism.

The Montreal Canadiens lost the services of two solid contributors to their past success. Frank Selke retired as managing director of the team, but stayed on as vice-chairman of the Board of the Canadian Arena Company and the Canadiens. Selke was honored at a private party, presented with a sterling silver tray, and made an honorary lifetime governor of the League. He was later succeeded by Sammy Pollock, who had worked his way up through the Canadian chain.

Bernie Geoffrion ended speculation about his future when he turned to become coach of the A.H.L.'s Quebec Aces.

There were several deals in the off season and many a calculated

risk of leaving players unprotected was successfully pulled off, but the occasional one backfired. Obligated to protect Roger Crozier, the Red Wings gambled on leaving goalie Terry Sawchuk unprotected. Punch Imlach drafted him for \$20,000.

The Hawks were the big dealers. To land Doug Mohns they gave the Bruins Reg Fleming and Ab McDonald. Then they sent Murray Balfour and Mike Draper to Boston for Jerry Toppazzini and Matt Ravlich. Later, Ron Murphy and Autry Erickson went to Detroit for John Miszuk, Ian Cushenan and Art Stratton.

Besides Sawchuk, the Leafs drafted Dickie Moore whose legs, they felt, might stand up for one more season. At 33, Moore had been off skates for a year, so his future was debatable. Others picked up by Toronto were Lou Jankowski, Gordon Redahl, Alex Hucul and Marc Reaume.

Detroit picked up Gary Bergman, Murray Hall, George Gardner, George Harris and Fred Hiltz. Ted Lindsay's four year retirement ended in October when he decided to rejoin the Wings so he could officially end his career with Detroit. Lindsay had been a Black Hawk when he quit in 1960.

It didn't take long for Lindsay to get into his familiar rut. He reestablished his feud with Dickie Moore, a Maple Leaf for 38 games; found it didn't pay to tangle with young Ted Harris of the Canadiens; and had tiffs with League officials. In mid-season the 39-year-old winger, after a verbal battle with referee Vern Bulley, was assessed a misconduct and a game misconduct. Declining a private hearing with President Campbell, a customary procedure under such circumstances, Lindsay talked loosely of the President's "Kangaroo Court." That action called for a written apology and a \$75 fine. With 14 goals and 14 assists along with 173 minutes in penalties in 69 games, Ted Lindsay had, indeed, made a remarkable comeback.

Rookie Roger Crozier was one of the hottest Wings just past mid-season when he had a temporary lapse. Anxious to find someone to back up their southpaw gem, the Wings sought Ed Giacomin from Providence and were staggered when the asking price was \$75,000. Detroit didn't buy.

Crozier went to Florida for a few days rest and when he returned the Wings clicked their way to the N.H.L. title, thanks to defensive work by Bergman, Barkley and Gadsby, plus the offense of Ullman, Howe and Delvecchio.

No matter how the Rangers manoeuvred they couldn't assemble a playoff team. New York inserted Arnie Brown and Rod Seiling on their defense. Then Bob Nevin, another ex-Leaf, was made captain after Camille Henry, Don Johns, Bill Taylor and an unnamed player were sent to Chicago in exchange for Doug Robinson, Wayne Hillman and John Brenneman. Dick Duff

wasn't a happy Ranger and was sent to the Canadiens for Bill Hicke. In yet another move, Emile Francis was made general manager after serving as assistant manager to Muzz Patrick since 1961. Patrick moved up to become vice-president of the new Madison Square Garden.

Toronto slid to fourth place in the final standing with a team that didn't quite jell as a group, but sparkled individually. Ron Ellis and Pete Stemkowski added a touch of new blood. If Roger Crozier's superlative play hadn't earned him the Calder Trophy, Ellis would have taken it easily. Frank Mahovlich, Dave Keon and Red Kelly were the high point getters for the team. Kelly's contribution was given under adverse circumstances since he divided his time between politics and hockey. Sawchuk and Bower made a scintillating goaltending combination that won them joint possession of the Vezina Trophy, a feat never before accomplished.

Always good on paper, the Black Hawks never quite matched that image on ice, much to the disgust of Jim Norris, who made threats, and Billy Reay, who made player changes. Bobby Hull went into a scoring slump that produced only 1 goal in 20 games. Then Glen Hall, who had proven he was an iron-man, requested a mid-season holiday and was replaced by Denis DeJordy. The last Chicago could do was gain third place even though Phil Esposito, a young center they counted on heavily, came through with 33 goals. Hoping a second Hull would produce like the first one, the Hawks signed Dennis Hull, who played in 55 games and scored ten goals.

Injuries riddled the teams during the 1964-65 season, which was probably one reason why the clubs lacking depth struggled for playoff berths. Dean Prentice was sidelined for a year with fractured vertebra. Alex Delvecchio, who scored his 270th goal to tie the record of Morenz and Joliat, suffered a broken jaw. Bobby Rousseau had a shoulder separation, Doug Mohns broke a bone in his foot, and Kenny Wharram fractured a jam bone, to mention but a few of the mishaps.

The repercussions of Toe Blake's 1963 blast at referee Eddie Powers were still heard this season. After quitting because the League failed to support him, Powers brought suit, which was eventually dropped when he accepted a settlement and an apology from Blake in November, 1964.

Later, Powers made startling statements regarding the control of officiating in some League games. He was eventually supported in his argument by Dalton McArthur, no longer an N.H.L. official, and linesman George Hayes, who was suspended in January, 1965, for his refusal to undergo an eye test. The accusations made by the former officials were never proven and the issue was eventually dropped.

In February, 1965, 58-year-old Carl Voss, for fifteen years overseer of N.H.L. officials, announced his retirement. He was succeeded by Ian Scotty Morrison.

Again the League doormats, the Boston Bruins accepted their fate with almost optimistic grace. They were openly disappointed at the showing of new acquisition Ab McDonald, but agreeably surprised by the improved deportment of Reg Fleming, who settled down and scored 18 goals.

The second-place Canadiens introduced two newcomers, Yvan Cournoyer, destined to become a fantastic power play scorer, and defenseman Ted Harris. Worsley was seldom heard from as Charlie Hodge maintained the style that had made him the talk of the League in 1963-64. Claude Provost was the big scorer for Canadiens, getting an impressive 27 goals. Montreal, it was said, had a number of weak points. However, they were strong enough to win the Stanley Cup in the spring.

Series "A" of the playoffs, between first-place Detroit and third-place Chicago, got under way with Detroit winning two games. But the Hawks won the next two games to even things up. The Red Wings took game five, but lost game six to the brilliance of Hall and the scoring of the "Scooter Line" of Mohns, Mikita and Wharram. The final game was all Chicago's as Bobby Hull connected for his eighth playoff goal in the seven game series. The score was 4-2.

Series "B" between second-place Montreal and fourth-place Toronto broke into instant warfare and was totally unlike the cleanly played contests between Chicago and Detroit. In opening game, which went to the Canadiens 3-2, the busiest man on the ice was referee Vern Buffey, who called 75 minutes in penalties. Leaf defenseman Kent Douglas was given a match penalty after attempting to decapitate Dave Balon.

A strong defensive game and three goals were all the Canadiens needed to beat the Leafs in their second meeting. Nineteen penalties were served in this 3-1 game.

Dave Keon was the hero of the third game which Toronto won 3-2 in overtime. It was Andy Bathgate, in disfavor with the fans, who got the goal that sent the game into overtime. Red Kelly's two goals in a clean, but hard fought, contest led Toronto to a 4-2 victory in the fourth game. When the teams went back to Montreal a 50-foot slap shot by Bobby Rousseau beat Bower at 7:30 of the third period and won the game. Beliveau's insurance goal in the dying seconds made the score 3-1.

Highlight of the sixth and final game was Claude Provost's overtime goal at 16:33 of extra time. It was a costly victory since it sent Canadiens into the finals without defenseman Jacques Laperriere, out with a broken ankle.

To help fill the gap made by Laperriere's absence, Canadiens called up Noel Picard and opened the series against the Hawks on an auspicious note, winning 3-2 on Cournoyer's goal.

A 2-0 win in the second game, with Lorne Worsley playing in the first Cup final of his checkered career, gave Canadiens a commanding role in the series. True to form, the underdog fought back, and Chicago won the next two games to tie up the series.

Charlie Hodge was in goal and the Montreal power play clicked as Canadiens took the next game 6-0. Jean Beliveau contributed two goals with Duff, Rousseau, Richard and Tremblay providing the others.

The desperate Hawks gave themselves a reprieve in the sixth game by winning 2-1 before 20,000 deliriously happy home fans. The game was marked by a stormy first period, highlighted by hostilities between Stan Mikita and Terry Harper.

Canadiens won the final 4-0 in the Montreal Forum on May 1, inspired by the line of Duff-Beliveau-Rousseau and the shutout performance of Worsley.

A new award, the Conn Smythe Trophy, was presented to the N.H.L. in 1964 by Maple Leaf Gardens, to be awarded to the most valuable player for his team in the entire playoffs. First winner of the award was Canadiens' captain, Jean Beliveau, the man who scored the Cup-winning goal in the seventh game.

1965-66

A pre-season trade saw the Leafs send Andy Bathgate, Billy Harris and Gary Jarrett to Detroit for Marcel Pronovost, Autry Erickson, Eddie Joyal, Larry Jeffrey and Lowell MacDonald.

The Rangers gave Providence goalie Marcel Paille, Aldo Guidolin and Don McGregor, plus an unnamed player for netminder Ed Giacomin, who had spent five seasons with the Reds. By trade and draft the Rangers swelled their ranks with Cesare Maniago, Ray Cullen, Johnny McKenzie and Gary Peters.

The Constantly-trading Red Wings picked up Ken Stephanson, Ab McDonald and Bob McCord from Boston in exchange for Al Langlois, Parker MacDonald, Ron Harris and Bob Dillabough. They added Bryan Watson, a tough little defenseman, in the draft. In an effort to strengthen their defense, the weakest link of their team, Chicago drafted the small but skillful Pat Stapleton, left unprotected by Toronto.

Boston, who spent \$120,000 in securing talent, was guided by the astute Hap Emms, who had been appointed team manager in the spring. At 60, Emms had a successful career behind him as a coach of juniors and was noted for his stern disciplinary actions. Ben Stewart joined the Bruins during the summer from Toronto in return for Orland Kurtenbach, Andy Hebenton and Stapleton,

with the latter soon moving on to Chicago where he achieved stardom.

After 12 seasons in the N.H.L. Jacques Plante, a 36-year-old goalie with seven Vezina Trophy wins to his credit, called it quits. Plante once said of goaltending: "How would you like it if you were sitting in your office and you made one little mistake. Suddenly a big red light went on and 18,000 people jumped up and started screaming at you, calling you a bum and an imbecile and throwing garbage at you. That's what it's like when you play goal in the N.H.L."

It was good news for the Leafs when Red Kelly gave up politics in the fall of 1965 to concentrate on hockey. But a couple of unpleasant jolts were in store for Punch Imlach. Defenseman Bob Baun stalked out of camp after failing to reach salary terms, but gave in later and went on to a disappointing season. The unpredictable Carl Brewer announced his retirement and returned to the University of Toronto.

Ted Lindsay officially retired again and made it stick. Defenseman Tom Johnson, who had slowed up, was given his unconditional release by Boston.

Despite a concerted effort by Rangers to make the playoffs they slid downwards into last place. Rod Gilbert, one of their sparkling forwards, was lost for a year for back surgery.

The Rangers needed some muscle so Emile Francis traded Johnny McKenzie to Boston for Reg Fleming. Francis slightly bigger than a jockey, needed some muscles himself on November 21 when he attacked a goal judge in New York and some belligerent fans joined in. Francis dropped his suit coat during the fracas, and his players, leaping over the glass at the end of the rink in an effort to rescue their coach, landed skates-first on Emile's coat, cutting it to ribbons.

The Rangers used three goalies in 1965-66, Ed Giacomin, Cesare Maniago and Don Simmons. When their combined efforts failed, Francis chose the route taken by many losing managers. He fired the coach—in this case Red Sullivan.

The biggest news story of 1965-66 was the scoring spree put on by Bobby Hull, despite being hampered by a knee injury. In January he scored his 300th N.H.L. goal. On March 2, 1966, the powerful winger hit the 50-goal plateau for the second time in his career by scoring on Detroit's Hank Bassen.

On March 12, Hull made New York's Cesare Maniago the victim of his 51st goal. For approximately 22,000 Chicago fans it provided a 7-minute binge of ecstasy. Just as joyous was fringe player Lou Angotti, who earlier had been cut from the Ranger squad by Francis. Angotti assisted on Hull's record breaker.

The fantastic Hawk player went on to score an all-time record

34 goals and 43 assists to win the Art Ross Trophy handily.

It was a mixed season for the Red Wings. Their ace forward, Gordie Howe, created history on November 27, 1965, by scoring his 600th N.H.L. goal when Detroit lost 3-2 to the Canadiens. Later, Alex Delvecchio, another old reliable, scored his 300th goal. Fighting off pancreas trouble, goalie Roger Crozier had his off-nights. Stalwart defenseman Doug Barkley was hit in the eye by Doug Mohns' stick and forced to retire.

There was a pre-season warning against stick swinging, calling for an automatic \$200 fine, but it didn't make a very deep impression on some N.H.L. wage earners. It cost Ranger Reg Fleming \$275 for swinging at ex-teammate Ted Green and for accidentally cutting linesman Brian Sopp. A Canadiens-Rangers melee swelled League funds by \$300. Then Kent Douglas of Toronto was on Campbell's carpet for pushing linesman John D'Amico and tossing a punch at an official. In February, Campbell announced that Don V. Ruck would be public relations director of the N.H.L., with offices in New York City.

When the Leafs went into a tailspin in the first half of the schedule, Stafford Smythe stated that some of the jobs would be spread among the Leaf hockey committee, leaving Imlach with less responsibility for the farm clubs he had been supervising. Some observers felt Imlach had swallowed a small plate of crow when he had to recall Eddie Shack from Rochester where Shack had been sent in the fall as a disciplinary measure. The fact that Shack returned and scored 26 goals made others think that Imlach had used skillful psychology.

With Boston and New York again playoff onlookers the Stanley Cup semi-finals opened on April 7 in Montreal and Chicago.

The Canadiens encountered a Leaf team that had banked on Allan Stanley's injured knee holding up, but the knee conked out in the opening game, won 4-3 by Canadiens. Game two also went to Montreal on a 2-0 victory and was a peppery affair with a total of 26 penalties handed out.

The 4-1 score for Canadiens in the third game wasn't unexpected, but the brawling was, as eight new playoff records were established. To control the combatants referee Art Skov called 35 penalties totaling 154 minutes. With the teams playing two men short for almost all of the first period, it took 65 minutes to complete the 20 minutes of official action.

In a less rambunctious fourth game the Canadiens spotted Toronto a 2-0 lead and then overwhelmed them with a 5-2 defeat.

The first four games between Detroit and Chicago were evenly split, with the Wings getting the immediate edge. The attack in game five was engineered by Normie Ullman, who paced his Detroit mates to a 5-3 win with a pair of goals. Having acquired Dean

Prentice from Boston and then getting two goals from him in game six, the Wings were indirectly obligated to the Bruins for surging into the finals on a 3-2 victory.

With Roger Crozier hot, the Red Wings handed the startled Canadiens two defeats in a row by scores of 3-2 and 5-2. The hungry Detroiters were on the trail of their first Stanley Cup in eleven years. But the next four games were a clean sweep for Canadiens, culminating with Henri Richard's overtime goal in game six. Roger Crozier won the Conn Smythe Trophy, though some felt that J. C. Tremblay or Jean Beliveau earned it in a winning cause.

1966-67

The pre-season activity mainly concerned expansion plans, but in the meantime, the old teams of the N.H.L. had their own business to look after.

Thinking youth might appeal to youth, the Boston Bruins signed 33-year-old Harry Sinden to succeed Milt Schmidt as coach. Then they went after their highly prized junior prospect, defenseman Bobby Orr, an 18-year-old sensation. Orr's father and lawyer Alan Eagleson negotiated his contract and the result was a handsome \$40,000 to \$60,000 two-year deal. If Boston had any misgivings about Orr's ability they were soon dispelled. Despite missing nine games through a knee injury, Orr was the third highest scorer on the Bruin team. He won the Calder Memorial Trophy in a breeze and got a berth on the All-Star team.

With Bernie Parent and Ed Johnston sharing the goaltending job, and a potentially impressive defense in rookie Joe Watson, tough sophomore Gilles Marotte and rugged Ted Green, the Bruins looked as though they might go places. They did, right back into the cellar. Their forwards couldn't muster enough scoring punch to offset the 253 goals their opponents scored upon them.

There was action in the draft. Orland Kurtenbach and Al MacIsaac went to the Rangers. Toronto took Johnny Brennenman from New York, but lost Wally Boyer to the Black Hawks, who needed center strength because of the supposed retirement of Bill Hay.

Having severed his coaching connections with the Quebec Aces, Bernie Geoffrion's two-year retirement as a player ended in mid-summer when he signed a three-year contract with the Rangers. His 17 goals and 25 assists in 58 scheduled games surpassed what the public expected of him and often made him a thorn in the side of his old mates, the Canadiens. With tremendous performance from two other ex-Montrealers, Phil Goyette and Don Marshall, a good recovery by Rod Gilbert from spine surgery, plus the defensive work of Arnie Brown, Harry Howell and goalie Giacomin, the Rangers rose to fourth place and, at last, a spot in the playoffs.

Toronto's Terry Sawchuk had unexpected off season surgery on his long-ailing back, but he started the season and seemed better than ever, until he entered a Toronto hospital in early December with suspected disc trouble. In all, Sawchuk participated in only 27 scheduled games, but he came back brilliantly to get his 100th career shutout and star in the playoffs. With all N.H.L. teams now employing the two-goalie system, there is little chance of any goalie ever matching Sawchuk's record.

Frank Mahovlich was a Leaf holdout who succumbed to a reported \$35,000 contract for one year. The worst slump of Bob Pulford's career was in 1966-67, and goalie Johnny Bower never had so many injuries. Carl Brewer cropped up in troublesome fashion again. This time he sought reinstatement as an amateur so he could join Canada's National team. It was a move Imlach opposed, but negotiations between lawyer Alan Eagleson, the Gardens and the League eventually brought approval for the move.

This was the toughest season Punch Imlach ever experienced in the N.H.L. His team had gone on a disturbing ten-game losing streak amid rumors that Punch was on the way out. Just as his team was coming out of the slump, Imlach was hospitalized. With King Clancy at the helm, the team surged to 9 victories out of 12 games and produced a potent trio in Pulford, Stenkowski and Pappin. Gossips muttered that the squad wouldn't play for Imlach. When he returned he steered them to third in the League, then to the Stanley Cup.

After complicated manoeuvring the Red Wings finally regained Howie Young, the temperamental defenseman who earlier in his career had been less than successful in Detroit. Temporarily blocked from returning to the N.H.L. on a technicality enforced by Chicago, Young became more of an asset to the Wings than had been expected. But the team could do no better than 5th.

Bill Hay and Glen Hall announced their retirement, but money brought them both back to the Hawks, playing as though they had never been away. Always powerful offensively, Chicago's weakest spot had been on the blue-line. This was rectified in 1966-67 with the addition of husky Ed Van Impe, the hitting of Doug Farret and the improved play of Pat Stapleton, enough of a change to gain first place for the season.

The champion Canadiens embarrassed Toe Blake. Woefully weak at scoring, the team temporarily dipped into the League cellar for the first time since 1948, but rallied to finish second in League standing. John Ferguson set a team record as the most penalized Canadian, taking the dubious honor away from Lou Fontinato. A high stick almost cost Jean Beliveau the sight in one eye early in the year. He missed several games and fell one goal short of attaining his 400th goal. The most pleasant surprise for Blake was

the outstanding play of rookie goalie Rogatien Vachon, called up from the minors to replace Worsley, who had been hit in the face by an egg thrown in New York.

Tempers frayed easily in this season. The usually placid Bobby Hull, possibly remembering the shadowing he'd received from Detroit's Bryan Watson in past playoffs, cut loose on the Red Wing in November and 18 stitches were required to close the wound around Watson's eye. In a February game in Boston Garden there was a slugfest between Bobby Orr and Ted Harris which Orr won handily. On February 5, John Ferguson went berserk in the Detroit Olympia and knocked down the glass partition in the penalty box, after a fight with Gary Bergman and Bryan Watson. Another time Ferguson hit linesman Brent Casselman and was suspended for three games. Bernie Geoffrion was suspended three games for a similar action.

Busher Jackson's death in Toronto on June 25, 1966, sparked sadness and anger in those who had admired him in his hey-day. He had dreamed of being entered in hockey's Hall of Fame, an honor bestowed upon many of his old teammates, but denied him, said his friends, because of disapproval of habits in his personal life.

On February 20, 1967, Gordie Howe, who seemed to have collected every award available, became the second winner of the Lester Patrick Trophy, an award for outstanding contribution to hockey in the United States. The presentation was made at the annual Lester Patrick Dinner in New York.

When the 1966-67 schedule came to a close on April 2, the Chicago Black Hawks had a 17-point lead over Canadiens, their nearest rivals. For the first time in 40 years the Hawks won the N.H.L. title, Hull scoring 52 goals. Mikita won the scoring race, however, with 35 goals and a record 62 assists. Mikita also won the Lady Byng and Hart Trophies, becoming the first player to win three major awards in a season.

Drawing Chicago as semi-final opponents hardly seemed like a lucky break for Toronto, but with a magnificent effort from their goalies the chore became easier.

Bobby Hull's power play goal proved to be the Chicago winner in a 5-2 opener. The goaltending of Sawchuk won game two for the Leafs, and an all-round team effort gave them the third contest. Game four went to Chicago 4-3, but Glen Hall stopped Jim Pappin's shot with his face and required 25 stitches. Toronto also suffered an injury when Tim Horton broke his nose.

Terry Sawchuk was rushed into Toronto's nets after Bower started game five and became shaky. Sawchuk thwarted the Hawks while his mates outsmarted them 4-2. Then in the next game a rookie with a famous name, Brian Conacher, whipped in the first

two playoff goals of his young career and shot Toronto into the finals on a 3-1 victory.

Because the Ranger team was husky and filled with desire it looked as though Canadiens might have a battle on their hands in the other semi-final series. But Montreal won four straight and made it look easy even though a couple of games were taken the hard way. John Ferguson, usually more at home in the penalty box, scored the winning goals in the second and fourth games.

The final encounters between the Canadiens and the Leafs were fast, rugged and featured wide open hockey. Montreal soundly trounced Toronto 6-2 in the opener, but the Leafs came back, somewhat unexpectedly, with two wins, one of them being a 3-0 shut-out. The other was won 3-2 on Bob Pulford's overtime goal in one of the most exciting games ever played.

In the fourth game Terry Sawchuk looked wobbly after he replaced Bower who had been hurt in the pre-game practice. With Backstrom and Beliveau each scoring a pair of goals, the Montrealers came through with a decisive 6-2 victory.

Back in Montreal for game five the Leafs came up with a strong team effort to defeat the Canadiens 4-1 and take the edge in the series. Then with a combination of age and youth they overpowered Montreal 3-1 and won the Stanley Cup in front of their home crowd. Pappin got his seventh goal of the playoffs, Sawchuk stopped a barrage of 41 Canadian shots, and Armstrong scored the insurance goal into an empty net. Toronto owned the Cup for the seventh time.

The Stanley Cup celebrations which closed out the 1966-67 N.H.L. season marked the end of an era. The season ahead would bring expansion and multitude of changes. These pending changes prompted a sardonic cheer in Boston during one of the Bruins' more resounding late-season losses.

"We're number six," the Bruin fans cried. "Next year, number twelve."

On June 6, 1967, hockey men from two countries assembled at Montreal for the important expansion draft. The old teams were concerned about the players they would lose. The new clubs—California Seals, Los Angeles Kings, Minnesota North Stars, Philadelphia Flyers, Pittsburgh Penguins and St. Louis Blues—were eager to begin claiming the men who would man their rosters, a guaranteed 11 players plus two goaltenders.

The ground rules were clear. Each of the old teams was allowed to protect 11 players and a goaltender in the first round and all protected lists were filed with the League and made public on the morning of draft day. Under a claim and fill system, the first and second times an established team lost a player, it could add a player to its protected list. Then the new teams were allowed to pluck three

more players apiece before the established clubs could fill. Then the protected lists remained unchanged while three more players were drafted. After that, the established teams protected a man, lost one, protected another, and so on until each new club had twenty players.

Goaltenders were drafted first. An established team protected one, lost one, protected another and lost a fourth. Each expansion team was given three minutes from the time of the previous selection to make its player choice. The old team was given the same amount of time to fill its protected list.

Prior to the draft, there were announcements from two of the new owners. Jack Kent Cooke, the canny sports mogul from Los Angeles, called a press conference to reveal he had purchased the Springfield Indians of the American Hockey League. Bill Putnam of Philadelphia told newsmen that his group had acquired ownership of the Quebec Aces of the A.H.L. Putnam also said his club would "take its best 20 shots" in the draft and would not be a party to pre-draft dealing with the established teams.

Red Kelly, having announced his retirement as a player after the playoffs, met several times with Jack Kent Cooke and it was obvious that Kelly was Cooke's choice to coach the Los Angeles Kings. Kelly's ex-teammate, Larry Regan, was general manager in Los Angeles. Kelly hoped to skip through the draft without being claimed or protected on the strength of Punch Imlach's promise that the Leafs wouldn't stand in the way of Kelly pursuing a coaching career. Imlach's interpretation of the agreement was that Cooke was welcome to Kelly, so long as he claimed him as a draft choice. When Cooke went round after round without adding Kelly's name to his list, Imlach startled everybody by placing Kelly's name on the Toronto protected list. Kelly and Cooke were furious but Imlach was adamant. If Cooke wanted Kelly so badly he should have drafted him early. He'd even sent King Clancy over to Kelly during the draft to warn Red he'd be protected if Los Angeles didn't draft him on the next round. Imlach's move brought tempers to the boiling point and Kelly, who rarely lost his temper on the ice, was seething. The matter was settled after the draft meeting when Imlach and Cooke worked out a deal whereby Kelly went to Los Angeles and the Leafs obtained minor league player Ken Block, the Kings' 15th draft choice.

Following the draft, a poll of twelve independent hockey experts, all connected with minor league clubs, produced the consensus that the Philadelphia Flyers and the Montreal Canadiens came through the draft in fine shape. The Boston Bruins were hardest hit among existing clubs and the Los Angeles Kings got the least for their money.

Hockey men were amazed that the Canadiens were able to retain

Claude Larose, Dick Duff and Claude Provost, as well as promising youngsters like Carol Vadnais, Serge Savard and Danny Grant.

General manager Bud Poile and coach Keith Allen did an outstanding job for Philadelphia. The Flyers took two Boston goalies, Bernie Parent and Doug Favell. They landed Ed Van Impe, Joe Watson, Brit Selby, Lou Angotti, Leon Rochefort, Don Blackburn, John Miszuk and Gary Peters among others.

Bert Olmstead and Frank Selke, Jr., were hired as coach and president for the California Seals, were justifiably pleased with their selections. Bob Baun, Kent Douglas and Billy Harris, former teammates of Olmstead in Toronto, went to the Seals, along with goalies Charlie Hodge and Gary Smith. California also went for sons of famous fathers when they selected Tracy Pratt, Babe Pratt's son, and Terry Clancy, son of King Clancy.

St. Louis and Minnesota also fared well. The St. Louis Blues obtained goalie Glen Hall and center Red Hay from Chicago. Other players grabbed by the Blues included Al Arbour, Don McKenney, Ron Stewart, Larry Keenan and John Brenneman. Minnesota took Pierre Maniago, Pete Goegan, Elmer Vasko, Wayne Connelly, Barker McDonald and Bill Goldsworthy as a nucleus. Then Minnesota revealed a coup. Wren Blair, the North Stars' general manager, announced that he'd purchased the professional rights to six members of Canada's National hockey team from the Leafs. They were goalie Ken Broderick, defensemen Terry O'Malley, Gary Begg and Gary Mackenzie, and forwards Gary Dineen and Paul Conlin. Blair also took an option on Ted Hargreaves.

Minnesota then traded Bryan Watson to Montreal for winger Leo Labadie, defenseman Bill Plager and pro rights to Barry Meissner. They also purchased center André Boudrias, defenseman Mike McSteen and forward Bob Charlebois, all from Montreal.

Pittsburgh captured several seasoned N.H.L. veterans. Earl Ingefeldt, Al McNeil, Ab McDonald, Leo Boivin, Val Fonteyne and Andy Bathgate gave the Penguins plenty of experience. Pittsburgh also obtained Paul Andrea, George Konik, Dunc McCallum and an amateur player from New York in return of ex-Leaf Larry Taylor.

The Rangers also traded with St. Louis, sending Bob Plager, Gary Sabourin and two unnamed amateurs to the Blues in return for Rod Neilling, lost by New York in the draft.

The Los Angeles Kings got first choice among the goaltenders and selected one of the best—Terry Sawchuk. Cooke's other choices were hockey eyebrows. Many of his drafted players were considered to be fringe players—the outside fringe. Cooke scoffed at the skeptics, and predicted his team would surprise all of them in the season ahead.

But of it all, there emerged a vision of multiple sales, swaps and

barter over the next few years. The draft also produced some behind-the-scenes fireworks. Boston was openly angry at the way they'd been stripped of young prospects while New York had managed to slide Boom Boom Geoffrion through the draft untouched and the Canadiens had salvaged Claude Larose. It was no secret that Minnesota's Wren Blair had passed up Larose in order to work out a deal with Montreal. Blair, with first choice after the goaltenders, selected Dave Balon and Montreal was able to protect Larose.

The Bruins were also angry with the Leafs. The Bruins felt they should have had first chance at the pro rights to the national team players dealt by the Leafs to Minnesota.

While the owners were having their arguments, the players congratulated themselves all the way down the line. Opportunities for big-league play at big-league pay were open to scores of players who might never have played in the N.H.L.

N.H.L. owners agreed to recognize a players' association, organized by Al Eagleson, a successful Toronto lawyer. Eagleson was named executive director of the association with Bob Pulford of Toronto as first president. One of the association's first aims was to raise the minimum N.H.L. salary from \$7,500 to \$12,000. The players also discussed a freer system of handling their own endorsements for advertising purposes. Minimum salary negotiations with the League ended when President Clarence Campbell announced a minimum salary boost to \$10,000 a season. Mr. Campbell noted that only one player had earned less than that amount in the previous season.

Hockey players are among the highest paid athletes in the world. There are no \$100,000 a year men in the N.H.L., but the average salary of a big-league hockey player is close to \$20,000. The average baseball player or football player doesn't earn as much, nor does the average jockey or golf professional. It's no wonder the ultimate goal of thousands of young hockey players, Canadian and American alike, is a place in the N.H.L. Throughout its 74 game schedule the 1967-68 N.H.L. season was the most unique in the history of the League. Expansion was the dominating feature, but there were innumerable highlights among the old teams.

The new six team loop, known as the Western Division, was comprised of the St. Louis Blues, Philadelphia Flyers, Los Angeles Kings, Minnesota North Stars, Oakland Seals and Pittsburgh Penguins.

Oakland was the most controversial squad in the League. They changed their name from the California Seals and they fired coach Rudy Pilous before the season even began. His successor, Bert Olmstead, ultimately turned over the coaching duties to Greg Fashoway and attended to managerial work. The Seals were rated as the team to beat because their roster was heavily stocked with

tested N.H.L. players. They ended the schedule in last place with 17 points, 20 points behind Pittsburgh. Attendance had dipped throughout the season and rumors spread that the franchise would be moved elsewhere. Final calculations showed the Seals had lost \$1,000,000 in their first season. A loan from a Canadian brewery gave the Seals a financial boost and the team dropped plans to move elsewhere. After the season Fred Glover of Cleveland was signed as coach of the Seals. The Los Angeles Kings, with Larry Regan and Red Kelly serving as rookie manager and coach respectively, were lampooned as the weakest contingent in the League. Discount goaltender Terry Sawchuk was their most prized chattel, and the squad was manned by unknowns. Sawchuk showed his years in a couple key games, but Wayne Rutledge turned out to be a goaltending bonus. By ending the schedule just one point behind the champion Philadelphia Flyers, the Kings became the wonder team of the Western Division.

Overall expansion dumbfounded the skeptics. The new teams were not pushovers for the Eastern division, their gate receipts soared and the fans in the new cities displayed an unexpected mixture of enthusiasm and sophistication in their rooting.

On December 30, Jack Kent Cooke, owner of the Kings, opened the \$18,000,000 Forum in Inglewood, California, with all the splash of a Hollywood premiere. Three months later the Philadelphia Flyers were temporarily homeless when a storm blew part of the roof off their \$13,000,000 Spectrum.

Expansion brought many pleasant surprises and one tragedy. Bill Masterton, 29-year-old member of the Minnesota North Stars, became the first player to die of an injury in the 51-year history of the League. He sustained a head injury in his home rink on January 13 in a game against Oakland and died thirty hours later. The League announced that \$60,000 would be turned over to his widow.

Advocates of helmets claimed the fatality might not have occurred if Masterton had been wearing headgear when his head struck the ice. Almost immediately a number of players began wearing helmets, but many discarded them after a short trial.

It was a season of ulcers and headaches for coaches and experts as they kept track of the changes and the dozen teams juggling for positions when the 1967-68 schedule opened on October 11.

With the departure of Hap Emms from the Boston Bruins Milt Schmidt became the team's new manager and began a rebuilding job. He dealt off minor league goalie Jack Norris, center Pit Martin and defenseman Gil Marotte to Chicago for forwards Phil Esposito, Fred Stanfield and Ken Hodge. Then he swapped Murray Oliver to Toronto for the colorful Eddie Shack and promoted rookie Derek Henderson from the Niagara Falls Juniors.

The Bruins, who hadn't made the playoffs since 1959 and hadn't

only once been out of last place in seven years, suddenly became the powerhouse of the N.H.L. Coached by Harry Sinden, they zoomed to an early League lead and were the muscle team of the N.H.L. Injuries to defensemen Bobby Orr and Ted Green hampered their drive to the championship. A third-place finish was credited largely to the former Black Hawks, particularly Esposito, who lost the scoring title by three points to Stan Mikita.

The deal that made the Bruins swing sent the Black Hawks into a tailspin. Pre-season guessing had them as a top contender for the League title but coach Billy Reay was hard pressed to guide them to fourth place. They collected 44 goals from Bobby Hull and 40 goals from Stan Mikita, but their porous defense allowed 222 goals to the opposition.

The Stanley Cupholding Toronto Maple Leafs skidded to a fifth-place finish through a combination of old age, lack of ambition and the absence of a skilled playmaker such as Red Kelly.

It was a season of strife for manager-coach Punch Imlach. Frank Mahovlich entered a Toronto hospital early in the schedule with a nervous breakdown. Forward Jim Pappin was suspended when he refused to accept a demotion to the Rochester Americans. There had been early contract problems and talk of dissension. Unable to shake his team out of their lethargy, Imlach sent super-star Mahovlich, Pete Stemkowski and Gary Unger to Detroit for Paul Henderson, Norm Ullman and Floyd Smith. The deal ignited the Leafs, but too late to get the team into the playoffs.

Toe Blake's thirteenth season as Montreal's mentor was probably his most frustrating one. He had the big guns and public opinion on his side, but his team, strangely enough, was in the cellar by Christmas Day. Then followed an upward surge as Montreal rose to first place by participating in 16 games without a defeat. Out of 14 victories and two ties 12 of the wins were successive. The Rangers broke their streak in New York on February 3.

A superb team effort spurred by captain Jean Beliveau, who had missed 15 games earlier in the schedule, sparked Canadiens to their ninth N.H.L. title under Blake's coaching. Beliveau became the first Canadien to hit the 20-goal circle in 1967-68. He collected the 400th goal of his career, and became the second player in N.H.L. history to amass 1,000 points. Gordie Howe of Detroit was the first.

Detroit, woefully weak on defense from the onset of the season, had 257 pucks shot into their net before finishing in last place. Goaltender Roger Crozier was so unnerved by the barrage of pucks hurled at him that he went into temporary retirement. Manager-coach Sid Abel made only one move to strengthen his defense. He traded forward Ted Hampson and defenseman Bert Marshall to Oakland for Kent Douglas.

The New York Rangers sizzled with unexpected power in every

department and made it to a second-place finish for the first time in a decade. Led by forwards Rod Gilbert and Jean Ratelle, the netminding of Ed Giacomin and the coaching of Emile Francis, the club gave Canadiens a close run for the championship. Gilbert, the highest paid player in Ranger history, hit the star category after two spinal fusions. There was nostalgia for Ranger fans in February when the old Madison Square Garden was officially closed and the \$25,000,000 Madison Square Garden Center complex became the hockey home of the New York club.

Death claimed Charlie Conacher, the right-winger on the famed Toronto Kid Line, just as 1967 was exiting. At 58, Conacher had battled cancer for several years. Upon his death the Charlie Conacher Foundation was set up at the Toronto General Hospital where he had been a patient. Conacher, whose funeral was attended by over 1,000 mourners, willed \$50,000 to the Foundation.

On March 29, Tim Daly, the former Trainer of the Toronto Maple Leafs, died in a Toronto hospital at the age of 84 after several years of ill health.

Brawls were prevalent in the N.H.L. in 1967-68 with the Boston Bruins in on several of them. The Bruins hosted bouts against Toronto, Montreal and a bench-clearing sawoff on Christmas night against Oakland. There was more violence in March when Boston's Eddie Shack and Philadelphia's Larry Zeidel engaged in a wild stick-swinging affair. N.H.L. President Clarence Campbell was forced to impose fines and suspensions on the culprits.

A tradition was broken on January 16 when the N.H.L.'s 21st All-Star game was played in mid-season instead of October. Held in Maple Leaf Gardens before 15,740 fans, the largest gathering ever to watch an All-Star game, the Toronto Maple Leafs defeated the Stars 4-3.

The closing of the schedule on March 31 saw Chicago's Stan Mikita win his fourth scoring title in five years and paved the way for him to win the Lady Byng and Hart Memorial Trophies along with the Art Ross Trophy for the second consecutive year.

Montreal's netminding twosome of Lorne Worsley and Rogatien Vachon became joint winners of the Vezina Trophy.

Boston collected their share of silverware when defenseman Bobby Orr was awarded the James Norris Memorial Trophy and rookie Derek Sanderson received the Calder Memorial Trophy.

But the real hour of truth was the Stanley Cup playoffs with a lucrative jackpot of \$567,000 to bring out the best in the participants. The format of the playoffs was changed to accommodate an interdivisional final.

The Eastern Division quarter-finals saw the Montreal Canadiens pitted against the Boston Bruins in Series "A" and a rugged exciting struggle was anticipated. Instead, the Bruins wilted in four straight

defeats, completely overpowered by the goaltending of Lorne Worsley and the depth of Montreal's scoring punch. Claude Larose, who had mustered only two goals over the entire regular schedule, came up with a pair in the fourth game won 3-2 by Canadiens.

When the Rangers grabbed a two-game lead over the Black Hawks in Series "B" there seemed little doubt that the Chicago team would be eliminated. The first game, won 3-1 on the strength of defenseman Harry Howell's goal, was New York's first playoff win since 1962. Game two was a 2-1 squeaker with Don Marshall emerging as the hero.

In the subsequent four games Chicago floored New York each time to move into the semi-finals against Canadiens. The Hawks won the fifth game 2-1 when rookie Bobby Schmautz fired a 90-foot shot past goalie Ed Giacomin at 16:46 of the third period.

Chicago was bombarded 9-2 in their initial meeting with Montreal in Series "E" which lacked the anticipated fireworks. Yvan Cournoyer and John Ferguson each scored two goals while the rest were spread among five other habitants.

Jean Beliveau's first Stanley Cup hat-trick led Canadiens to a 4-1 victory in the second meeting. After winning game three 4-2, Montreal was finally stopped by a 2-1 defeat. The game that eliminated Chicago was played on the Sunday afternoon of April 28. With the score tied 2-2 the game went into two minutes and fourteen seconds of overtime before rookie Jacques Lemaire sank the winning goal on a pass from Dick Duff.

Western Division fans were treated to overtime thrillers and a brawl as the evenly matched newcomers engaged in their quarter-finals.

Philadelphia and St. Louis battled the full seven games before the Blues won out. Jim Roberts was the hero of the opener when he scored the game's only goal against Doug Favell in the Flyers' net. When Philadelphia won the second game it was Leon Rochefort's turn to grab the spotlight as he broke up a 3-3 tie.

The Flyers extended St. Louis into a second period of overtime in the third contest, but Larry Keenan banged in the winner for the Blues. Game four also went to St. Louis by a 5-2 score.

Philadelphia came to life in the fifth game by trouncing the Blues 6-1. A 20-minute third-period fight resulted in 49 minutes in penalties being assessed and \$3,800 in fines handed out by President Campbell. Coaches Scotty Bowman and Keith Allen were fined for failing to control their players.

Another overtime duel in game six enabled Philadelphia to tie the series. Again it went into a second overtime period and was ended at the midway mark by Bob Blackburn's goal.

St. Louis ended it all in the seventh meeting in regulation time by

a 3-1 decision. Prominent in the win were veterans Doug Harvey and Dickie Moore.

When Wren Blair's Minnesota North Stars squared off against Red Kelly's Los Angeles Kings the fans in the two cities witnessed a thrilling seven game battle. The Kings grabbed an early two game lead as their team put up a stiff defense in front of Sawchuk to gain 2-0 and 2-1 victories.

After Minnesota surged back with 7-5 and 3-2 victories to tie the series the Kings replaced Sawchuk with Rutledge who came through with a 3-2 win for Los Angeles. When Milan Marcetta provided the North Stars with a 4-3 triumph in an overtime sixth game, the Kings called Sawchuk back for the finale. It was his 100th playoff game and he was pelted with 42 shots in a 9-4 defeat.

Four overtime games highlighted the seven game contest between the North Stars and the Blues. St. Louis took the first game 2-1, but dropped the second one 3-2 in overtime and the third 5-1 in regulation play.

Two successive wins by 4-3 and 3-2 scores in overtime gave St. Louis a one-game edge in the series as Glenn Hall sparkled in goal. Then Minnesota made a strong comeback to tie the series by defeating the Blues 5-1. The seventh meeting was broken up in the second overtime period by Ron Shock whose goal sent St. Louis into the history-making finals against the Montreal Canadiens.

The Blues had to go from one gruelling series into another while the Montreal team had rested a week. Despite losing in four straight games to Canadiens, the Blues made it a close, exciting and interesting series. Each of the four games was won by a single goal and two went into brief overtime interludes. The first of those was won 3-2 by Jacques Lemaire, the second by Bobby Rousseau.

By participating in a total of eight overtime playoff games the St. Louis Blues set a new N.H.L. record.

In winning the Stanley Cup in a matinee game on Saturday, May 11, Canadiens helped culminate the longest Cup hunt in history. It took 40 games to decide the winner. If there was an individual hero of the 3-2 victory it was defenseman J. C. Tremblay who scored the winning goal. Immediately after the win, coach Toe Blake announced his retirement, bowing out with eight Stanley Cups in thirteen seasons of N.H.L. coaching.

The merging of the old and the new was officially completed. Scotty Bowman, coach of the St. Louis Blues, was hailed as a believer of miracles. Glenn Hall became the first expansion player to receive the Conn Smythe Trophy as the most valuable playoff player.

1968-1969
and
CONCLUSION

Four N.H.L. teams acquired new coaches for the 1968-69 season, a 76-game schedule, the longest in league history. It was a season of record-smashing performances.

Claude Ruel, at 29, became the League's youngest coach when he was signed to replace Toe Blake who retired as Montreal's coach at the conclusion of the 1967-68 season.

Bill Gadsby was chosen to succeed Sid Abel as Detroit's coach, Bernie Geoffrion was signed to handle the New York Rangers and Fred Glover was signed to coach the Oakland Seals. In November John Muckler was called up from Memphis to coach the Minnesota North Stars.

On January 17, Geoffrion collapsed in his team's dressing room after a game in Oakland and was replaced by Emile Francis who announced that Geoffrion would work for the organization in another capacity.

On January 19, John Muckler was replaced by Wren Blair after the North Stars went on a 14-game winless streak.

The N.H.L. made an off-season decision to have the annual All-Star game an east-west contest. It was played on January 21 in Montreal's \$9,000,000 Forum and ended in a 3-3 tie.

The Board of Governors made a summer decision to establish the Clarence S. Campbell Bowl in honor of the League's president. The trophy was to be awarded to the team ending in first place in the Western Division. The Philadelphia Flyers were the first recipients.

A highlight of the summer draft was the St. Louis Blues' acquisition of goaltender Jacques Plante. Plante made a stunning comeback and combined with Glen Hall to jointly win the Vezina Trophy at the end of the schedule.

George Armstrong, Toronto's captain, announced his retirement prior to the start of the schedule in October, but reversed his decision in December.

Bobby Hull announced his retirement in early October after a contract dispute with the Chicago management. On October 13, he signed a 3-year contract at a reported \$100,000 per season.

A notable deal saw goaltender Terry Sawchuk go to Detroit from Los Angeles in exchange for Jim Peters. Bob Baun and Ron Harris were traded to Detroit by Oakland for Gary Jarrett and Doug Roberts. Before the trading deadline, Brit Selby and Forbes Kennedy were sent to Toronto by Philadelphia for Bill Sutherland, Gerry Meehan and Mike Byers.

Gordie Howe scored his 700th goal on December 4 in Pittsburgh, Jean Beliveau's 500th goal was scored in Minnesota in October, while Norm Ullman collected his 350th goal on January 4 in Toronto. On February 26, Doug Harvey got his 450th assist in a game in Toronto.

Punch Imlach's job as manager-coach of the Leafs appeared to be in jeopardy in December when the Leaf brass held closed sessions regarding his team's low standing in the League. He received a vote of confidence. His team made the playoffs in fourth position but suffered a disastrous quarter final against Boston who eliminated them four straight. Imlach was fired on April 6 by Stafford Smythe immediately after the fourth game. The move upset many fans and delighted others. Jim Gregory took over as general manager of the Leafs while John McLellan was named coach.

Illness and injuries played a major role in the 1968-69 season.

Harry Howell missed his first game after playing in 296 consecutive games. A back ailment hampered him all season.

The Boston Bruins and Montreal Canadiens jockeyed for first place in the eastern division for most of the season and were frequently short of manpower.

Bruin goaltender Ed Johnston sustained a head injury in Detroit in October and was sidelined until January 4. At one point in the schedule the Bruins were minus eight regulars.

Canadiens lost the services of Gilles Tremblay for most of the season due to recurring attacks of asthma. They also lost Lorne Worsley, suffering from nerves and acrophobia, and Rogatien Vachon with a fractured hand.

Chicago's Bobby Hull sustained a fractured jaw on December 15, but missed only one game and scored a record 58 goals.

The fate of the Oakland Seals was in doubt due to a lack of home game attendance and uncertainty over the ownership of the franchise.

The St. Louis Blues clinched first place in the Western Division early in the schedule and ended with 88 points, a comfortable 19 points ahead of the Seals.

The Montreal Canadiens officially won the Eastern Division championship on March 29 when they defeated Boston in Montreal. They set three records by finishing first. They ended the season with 103 points to Boston's 100 points for their greatest total

ever. It was their 46th win of the season and it was the 18th time they finished on top.

On January 2, Red Berenson of St. Louis became the second N.H.L. player to score 6 goals in a single game. He accomplished this in an 8-0 win over Philadelphia. Twenty-four years earlier, in 1944, Syd Howe of Detroit set the modern-era record with 6 goals in one game.

When Chicago defeated Detroit 9-5 on March 30 in Chicago, Pat Stapleton's 6 assists tied the League record for assists by a defenseman, set by Babe Pratt of Toronto in 1944. Stapleton's 50 assists established another record.

Leaf rookie defenseman Jim Dorey established two records in his second N.H.L. game. Playing against Pittsburgh in Toronto on October 16 he totalled 38 minutes in penalties, the most any player has compiled in a single game, before he was ejected by referee Art Skov. The eight separate penalties he incurred was also a record.

Bobby Orr set a record for goals by a defenseman when he scored 21 times. His 64 points was also a record for a defenseman.

Two rookies held the spotlight in the Western Division. Danny Grant of Minnesota and Norm Ferguson of Oakland both scored 34 goals to tie a record set by Nels Stewart in 1925-26. Grant edged Ferguson for the Calder Trophy.

Bobby Hull, Phil Esposito and Gordie Howe became the first N.H.L. players to surpass 100 points in a season.

It was Howe's finest season in points. He collected 103 and he set a record for right wingers by assisting on 59 goals, breaking Andy Bathgate's mark of 58.

The line of Mahovlich, Howe and Delvecchio set a line record for goals with 118, and amassed 254 points.

It was the Boston Bruins who smashed the most records.

Esposito set a record for goals by a centre with 49, breaking Jean Beliveau's record of 47 set in 1957. His 77 assists, also a record, brought his total points to 126, breaking the total points record by a player in a single season.

The line of Esposito, Hodge and Murphy collected 263 points, 37 better than the previous mark of 226.

A total of 40 marks were tied or broken in this record 456 game season.

Forbes Kennedy established a penalty record for centers with 219 minutes.

Minnesota's Danny Grant, with 65 points, set a record for the most points by a rookie.

Boston's 303 goals shattered the record set by Chicago in 1966-67.

The Bruins set two other records: 497 assists, plus a total of 800 scoring points. They also go on record as the most penalized N.H.L.

team with a season total of 1,297 minutes.

Brad Park and Walt Tkaczuk of New York equalled the record (4) for the most assists in a game by a rookie.

The St. Louis Blues tied a team record when goaltenders Hall and Plante, with eight and five shutouts respectively, equalled the mark for shutouts by a team during a minimum 70-game schedule.

In the opening game of the quarter final playoffs between Toronto and Boston several records were tied or set.

Phil Esposito's four goals and six assists equalled the playoff record set by Dickie Moore.

Forbes Kennedy of the Leafs, penalized eight times, set N.H.L. playoff records in four categories on April 2. These included the most penalties in one game (8), the most minutes in one game (38), the most penalties in one period (6), and the most minutes in one period (34). His eight penalties broke the record of seven held by Eddie Shore and his 38 minutes broke a record held by Red Horner.

The Leaf team, penalized 20 times, set a record for team penalties in one game.

The 38 penalties meted out to both teams is also an N.H.L. record.

Kennedy's actions earned him a four-game suspension and a \$1,000 fine.

Boston defeated the Leafs four straight by scores of 10-0, 7-0, 4-3, 3-2.

Montreal disposed of New York in four consecutive games in their first round meeting by scores of 3-1, 5-2, 4-1, 4-3.

The most exciting playoff hockey was performed by Boston and Montreal in their semi-final series which went six games and produced superlative goaltending. In defeating the Bruins the Canadiens entered their 20th Stanley Cup final.

Scores of the Bruin-Canadien series were:

Montreal 3, Boston 2; Montreal 4, Boston 3; Boston 5, Montreal 0; Boston 3, Montreal 2; Montreal 4, Boston 2; Montreal 2, Boston 1.

In the Western Division the St. Louis Blues disposed of Philadelphia in four straight games in their quarter final series by scores of 5-2, 5-0, 3-0 and 4-1.

Meanwhile, Los Angeles and Oakland played seven games before the Kings eliminated the Seals. Their scores were:

Los Angeles 5, Oakland 4; Oakland 4, Los Angeles 2; Oakland 5, Los Angeles 2; Los Angeles 4, Oakland 2; Oakland 4, Los Angeles 1; Los Angeles 4, Oakland 3; Los Angeles 5, Oakland 3.

St. Louis had no difficulty in disposing of Los Angeles in their semi-final meeting. They won four straight by scores of 4-0, 3-2, 5-2 and 4-1.

The Stanley Cup finals marked the second consecutive meeting between Montreal and St. Louis.

Canadiens swept the disappointing series by scores of 3-1, 3-1, 4-0 and 2-1. John Ferguson triggered the winning goal in the final game, a shot that enriched each Canadian player by \$9,750.

After the final series, Wren Blair of Minnesota predicted a long reign at the top for Montreal.

"This may be the last dynasty in professional sport now that the draft systems are balancing teams everywhere," he stated. "It's a dynasty that may last a long time. It's going to be much harder to pull down the Canadiens than either the New York Yankees or the Green Bay Packers."

By mid-May Claude Ruel could finally relax. The formidable challenge of following in Toe Blake's footsteps had been successfully accomplished. The Montreal players showed their appreciation by presenting their coach with a harness horse as a post-season gift. Alas, his horse showed less consistency than his hockey players when it came to finishing first.

The annual June meetings in Montreal saw Red Kelly, Sid Abel, Bryan Hextall and Roy Worters elected to the Hockey Hall of Fame. Discussions centered around the controversial reserve clause, realignment and possible further expansion.

Hockey's next expansion may be global in nature. The Russians boast of countless hockey players. Twenty years ago there were only a handful of players in the Soviet Union.

David Molson, the young blond leader of the Canadiens, believes the future holds worldwide hockey expansion possibilities.

"I look forward to the day," he says, "when with the growth of hockey in Europe we'll be spectators to a world playoff for the Stanley Cup."

Clarence Campbell concurs. The N.H.L. President said recently, "It is conceivable the Stanley Cup will be played for in Moscow in the not too distant future. When that happens, the World Tournament as we know it now will just disappear. The game will continue to expand. The game will continue to improve because the athletes will continue to improve as they have done throughout the past half century."

The National Hockey League embarks on a new era, over fifty years after its founding. We are caught up with the present and the present will soon be past. Today's hockey heroes will step aside, their deeds chronicled by some future hockey historian. Hockey is a marvellous game.

There's a great joy in playing it . . .
An enormous thrill in watching it . . .
May those of us who love it
Bear witness to fifty more years of it.

THE
END

THIS IS THE DRAMATIC STORY OF THE NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE AND OF ICE HOCKEY ITSELF—THE GRANDEST TEAM GAME OF THEM ALL. WITH WORDS AND PICTURES IT CAPTURES THE CHANGING FACE OF HOCKEY DURING THE FIFTY YEARS SINCE THE N.H.L. WAS LAUNCHED, WITH FULL MENTION OF THE GREAT MEN OF HOCKEY AND THE GREAT GAMES PLAYED. IT ALSO ADDS A COMPLETE TREASURY OF N.H.L. AND STANLEY CUP RECORDS AND STATISTICS.

On a chilly November day in 1917 the National Hockey League was born.

Skulls were cracked and blood flowed with shocking regularity. Games were played in draughty, barn-like arenas with poor lighting and on ice that was rock-hard, putty-soft or salted to sabotage a fast team.

The fans loved it. They bundled up in sub-zero temperature, cheered, cursed, hurled over-ripe fruit at opposing players and lit out for riotous post-game battles at the local bar.

A rousing spectacle of skill, speed, shooting, stick-handling, body-hurling, ice hockey is at its finest in the National Hockey League. The complete story is all here, in a book that has already become the Bible of the devout hockey fan.

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*Clarence S. Campbell,
President, National Hockey League.*



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